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Niagara NEWS

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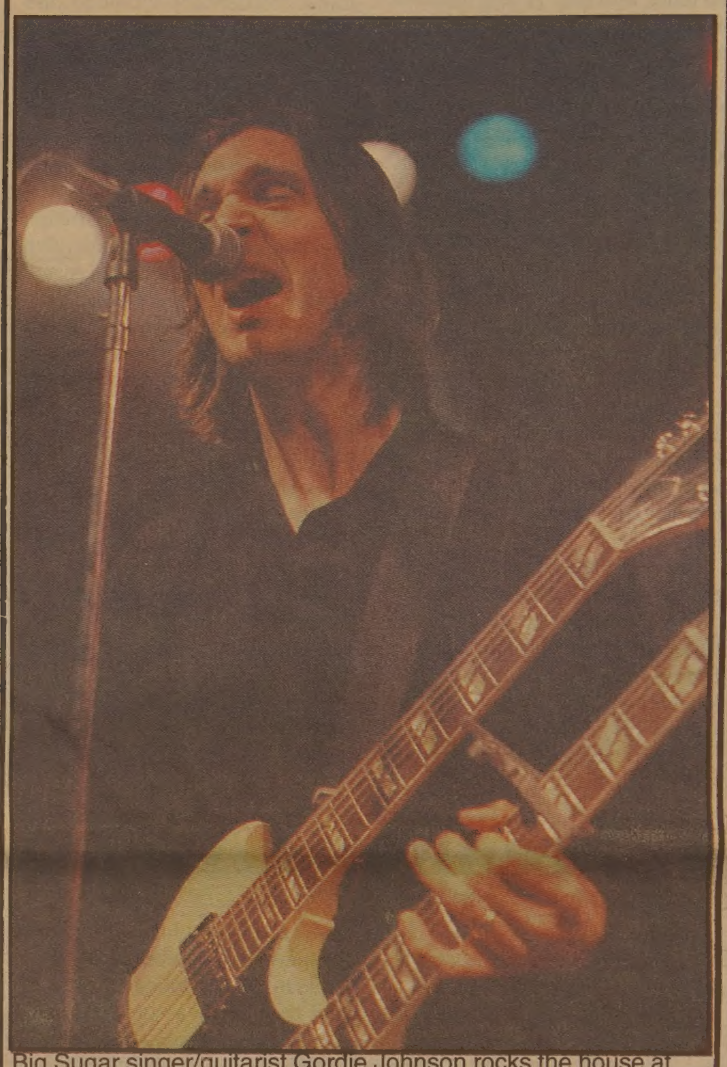

Big Sugar singer/guitarist Gordie Johnson rocks the house at Niagara College Feb. 23. See full coverage pages 16-17.
Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Tuition hiked

10 per cent increase for 1999/2000 school year

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Tuition fees are on the rise.

Niagara College's board of governors has approved a 10 per cent increase in tuition fees for the 1999/2000 academic year.

"We believe that the increase is necessary," said college President Dan Patterson.

He said 30 per cent of the increase must go to students in financial need. The remaining 70 per cent must go to the enrichment of the college's learning curriculum.

"We are confident that we can manage this," said Patterson.

The report given to board members states the increase will generate $460,000 in new revenue. The need for salary increases and staffing required to handle increased enrolment will result in the need for at least $1 million in new revenue.

Patterson cited increasing enrolment and the increased cost of delivering services as the reasons for the tuition increase.

The 30 per cent slated for the student bursary fund will mean an increase of $237,000 on top of the $600,000 for 1998/1999 academic year.

"I think the opportunity to assist students is in there," said Martha Casson, vice-president, Enterprise and Service Development.

Casson was answering a query by Don Woodruff, the student representative on the board.

Woodruff questioned whether high school students coming to the college could make enough money to match the increase as they only get two months of work between finishing high school and starting college.

The Ontario Student Assistance Program will take the 10 per cent increase into consideration when issuing loans next year.

The college is still looking at increasing co-op fees. The report said officials plan to increase the fee between 10 and 15 per cent. The current fee is $360 a co-op term, which falls in the mid-range when compared to other colleges.

The increase will mean an increase of $77.14 a term in post-secondary certificate and diploma programs, a $120.85 hike each term in post-diploma certificate programs, a $4.32 hike each week in short certificate programs and part-time day. Continuing Education programs will also see a 10 per cent fee increase.

In comparison, tuition at Brock University in St. Catharines will be increased $161.50, taking it from $1,775.50 to $1,937.50.

Don Woodruff, a third year Business Administration — Operations Management (Co-op) program student, said, "I feel the increase is necessary for the college to expand on what it has done and what it is providing for the students."

He said it will enable Niagara to remain competitive within the industry and keep it current with its niches in the market.

"I also feel, from a student's perspective, the financial need will be fulfilled through the bursary fund," he said. He added, since it's a $154.28 increase, if students need assistance they'll be able to get it through scholarships.

"I hope students don't look at it as 'we're doing it because we feel we want to or we feel students should pay more.'" It's definitely student-directed."

Students rewarded for their contributions

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Three Niagara College graduates were nominated for the Premier's Awards for Graduates of Ontario's Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology at this year's Association of College of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) annual conference, hosted by Humber College.

The Premier's Awards were created by the province to recognize and acknowledge the important social and economic contribution college graduates make in Ontario. Launched in 1992, they marked the 25th anniversary of Ontario's college system.

The three graduates nominated from Niagara College were Debbie Zimmerman in the category of applied arts, Rene Real Galipeau

Continued on Page 2

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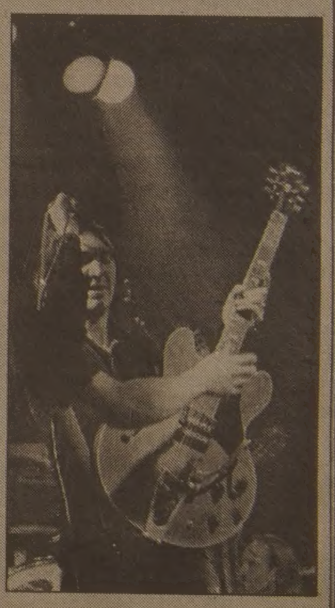
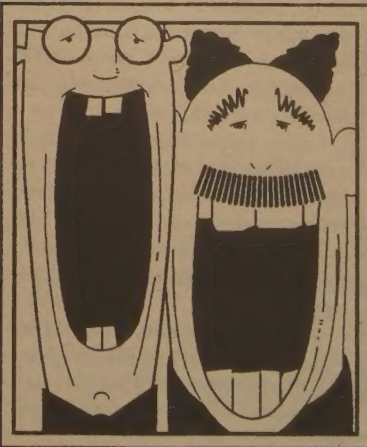


Photo by Sara Storm



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ACAATO

Colleges: Leading in Global Economy

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Ontario colleges were faced with new challenges for the 21st century at this year's Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) conference held Feb. 14 to 15.

This year's conference theme was Ontario Colleges: Leading in the Global Economy.

"This was a very informative conference," says college President Dan Patterson.

The two-day event, held at Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel, was filled with guest speakers, workshops and awards, and it offered a chance for host Humber College to boast its accomplishments to the other 24 Ontario community colleges. Humber's students hosted a dinner Feb. 14 for the 300 attendees.

This year Niagara's delegation included several Board of Governors members. In attendance were Amy Bignucolo, David Miskolczi, Pia Sandström Arnds, Mike Duffy , Bill Monroe and Joan Warbis. Also in attendance were Darryl Neufeld, executive assistant to the president and Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic.

"The highlight of the conference was the Premier's Awards for celebrating graduates of the college system," says Patterson.

Ontario Premier Mike Harris and Dave Johnson, minister of education and training, presented the awards.

Three of the Premier's Awards nominees were Niagara College graduates. They were Debbie Zimmerman, 1975 Journalism-Print; Rene Real Galipeau, 1970 Business Administration; and Lyall Watson, Electronic Engineering Technology.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Terry O'Banion, president of the League for Innovation in the Community College. He spoke on the topic of *A Learning College for the 21st Century,* also the title of his newest published book. He set the tone by encouraging colleges to become more "learner focused."

The college system can't be just "time bound and classroom bound," says Patterson. "Colleges need to be more flexible and change to the nature of the needs of the learner."

O'Banion says, "We are experiencing a learning revolution" across North America where technology advances and other changes in the learner require the college system to rethink the "traditional" notions of community colleges.

Following on this idea, board of governors members from selected colleges spoke on their positions on achievements and opportunities.

Representing Niagara was Joan Warbis, a support staff representative.

Another topic of interest was the Reflections in the Mirror address. This included a panel of journalists: Jennifer Lewington from the Toronto *Globe and Mail*; Ian Urquhart of *The Toronto Star;* and Dr. Stuart Smith, president of Rockcliffe Research and Technology Inc., who acted as moderator.

This discussion identified the need for colleges to be better advocates at Queen's Park, and to raise the college system's profile among legislators by lobbying for effective change.

"Colleges are doing a great job, but they are not on the radar screen of interest," says Patterson.

The speakers challenged college presidents and faculty to lobby more effectively to be in the daily news, to get the media coverage and to present their interests.

Another key issue for the college system, identified by various speakers, is the funding model.

The current system is "grossly" unfair. Enrolment growth must keep pace with the system average just to maintain current funding levels. Colleges are continually having to do more with less. A new model is needed to decrease pressure to raise tuition fees.

In conjunction with this, job preparation is an "important role" for colleges. Guest speaker W. John Wright, senior vice-president and associate managing director of public affairs for the Angus Reid Group, cited statistics from many polls.

These statistics reinforced the public's growing reliance on colleges to prepare people for jobs.

Although the data is positive and encouraging, colleges need the support from government, he said, to help deliver the quality programs and services communities and industry are expecting and demanding.

Among Niagara College's speakers were Bea Clark and Warbis.

Clark, director of the Ventures Employment and Training Services Division, gave a workshop on Building the Competitive Advantage.

Warbis shared the panel with governors from various colleges.

Stewart Kallio, who came to Niagara a week ago, was also a guest speaker.

Patterson says the "very encouraging" conference included one speaker he was "impressed" with: Wendy Murphy, a City-Pulse community special host on CITY TV.

Her "Video Diary" is a popular feature as she travels the Greater Toronto Area covering community and personal events.

She is a Business Administration graduate from Oakville's Sheridan College and was a Premier's Award nominee, winner of a Women Who Make a Difference award and a 1997 recipient of the Elizabeth Arden Award of the Arts. Murphy is also a graduate of Radio and Broadcasting at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto.

"I was impressed with the important role she plays in the media," says Patterson.

Being a college graduate, she spoke of how "valuable and helpful" the college system was to her career.

Next year Niagara College will be the host college for the 25th annual ACAATO conference.

Niagara graduates nominated for Premier's Award

Continued from Page 1

for business, and Lyall Watson in the category for technology.

Zimmerman graduated from the college in 1975 from the Journalism-Print program. She began her community involvement when she was first elected to public office in 1978. She served four terms as alderman on Grimsby's Municipal Council. Then from 1989 to 1997, Zimmerman served as Niagara Regional councillor and, from 1994 to 1998, she was commissioner for the Niagara Escarpment Commission.

To add to her success, in 1997 she was elected by her peers as chair of the Council for the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Since graduating from Niagara in 1970 with a Business Administration diploma, Galipeau has become a taxation and corporate financial restructuring expert in the mining sector. He has helped revive a number of companies, including Breakwater Resources, where he is the vice-president of finance.

Breakwater Resources is the seventh largest zinc producer in the Western world. Galipeau is also involved with the privatization of mining and metallurgical industries in Bulgaria. He has served on related committees such as the Mining Associations of Canada, Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba.

With offers rolling in from several prominent companies in the electronics industry while still in college, Watson accepted a position with Ingersoll-Rand immediately after graduating from Niagara's Electronic Engineering Technology program.

He is leading a software development project that will revolutionize the design and development of electronic access control systems. Watson volunteers as a swimming instructor and swim team coach. He also volunteers with the Niagara Boys and Girls Club.

Although none of the three graduates won in their category, the three received certificates of recognition and met with Ontario Premier Mike Harris and Minister of Education Dave Johnson.The Premier's Awards, presented annually, acknowledge four outstanding graduates from applied arts, business, health sciences and technology.

The nominees are chosen from nominations submitted by the province's 25 colleges.

To qualify for the Premier's Award, the graduate must have demonstrated career success related to his or her college experience and have made a significant contribution to society.

The recipient of the award receives a medal and a $5,000 bursary to the college of the recipient's choice.

A fifth honourary award may be presented each year to an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the college system.

All three nominees from Niagara College attended the Premier's Awards banquet at the ACAATO conference held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto.

Niagara College selected as year 2000 host

Students can get involved and be a part of the event

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

We are the host!

Niagara College has been selected to host the Year 2000 Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) conference.

"This is a great opportunity to showcase Niagara College, and an opportunity for our students to get involved, especially the culinary students, and for the Board of Governors members as well," says college President Dan Patterson.

Not only is the college the host for the new millennium, but 2000 also marks the 25th anniversary of the annual conference.

By hosting the ACAATO conference, the college will be bringing 500 people into the Niagara Region. This will be a "major" event for the region and the college.

The conference will be held in February at the Sheraton Fallsview in Niagara Falls. Tours will be given to showcase all three campuses.

Hands-on experience helps students

Preparing students for the working world

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Dental Hygiene students at Niagara College are getting hands-on experience during their clinics this semester. The students have begun working on actual clients, practising the skills they've been learning since September.

The clinic, says program co-ordinator Carol Barr-Overholt, not only provides "hands-on clinical experience in a simulated practice," but also adequately prepares the students for the working world.

CAROL BARR-OVERHOLT

Barr-Overholt says the hygiene clinic, combined with the restorative clinic run by the dental assistant students, serves up to 3,000 community members during its run from January until June.

Kathy Varga, 24, of Welland, is a dental hygiene student and says so far her clinical experiences have been very positive. "I not only like my teachers and my classmates, I'm also getting good clinical experience."

Appointments can be made by visiting the clinic in S301, or phoning the college at 735-2211, ext. 7758

Eye On Niagara

Basketball cop inspires youths

By SARA De TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Who called the police?

Niagara Regional Police officer Brad Swan, 39, of Fort Erie, is running a basketball program for area youth at the Fort Erie Teen Centre.

Located on Central Avenue in the border town, the centre is open weeknights from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. for teens between the ages of 10 to 19. It provides activities such as arts and crafts, various sports, movie nights, counselling services and computer programs.

Swan, himself the father of an eight-year-old son, has been a police officer for 15 years. The idea for the basketball program came to him after he received money from a charity. He used it to buy basketball nets, which he donated to the Black Creek Community Centre.

"It gave the kids up there something to do, and I thought it would be good to start something like that in Fort Erie."

The program runs one or two nights a week depending on Swan's work schedule. He says he feels the centre has been a positive influence on area youth by getting them off the streets and giving them something to do. "It would be a shame if it ever came to the point where a lack of funding caused the centre to close."

'They have started to see the police more as a friend than as someone who is going to get them into trouble.'

— Peggy Hirons

Peggy Hirons, 50, who co-founded the centre in 1995 with her husband Dale, says Swan's presence has really helped to make a difference in the way teens view police officers.

"They have started to see the police more as a friend figure than as someone who is going to get them into trouble," says Hirons. Her father was a police officer so, she says, she always saw police in a favourable light.

"Unfortunately today," she says, "most kids don't see them that way."

Since Swan comes into the centre wearing his uniform, Hirons says, she feels the teens are starting to realize police officers are people like anybody else. "They're not only officers, they're fathers and men, too."

Niagara Regional Police Officer Brad Swan plays basketball with area youth at the Fort Erie Teen Centre. **Photo by Sara De Tamble**

Swan says he agrees with Hirons the basketball program has helped in getting the teens to relate to him.

"If problems do arise, they're more likely to be honest," says Swan. "Friends are more helpful to friends." Swan's presence has also inspired some of the teens to admit they too would like to be police officers some day.

Angela Jamieson, 10, of Fort Erie, was one of the youth playing basketball with Swan during the Feb. 17 game. She says she likes the fact a police officer is at the centre because he can "watch over the centre in case anybody gets hurt."

Hirons admits Swan's willingness to stop by, even when he's not on duty, has been helpful. "It's like having our own personal police officer."

"I think it's cool that he comes to the centre," says Jamieson, "because someone is making a difference in someone else's life."

Computers key

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

In the information age, knowledge is power, and power is money.

Randall Howard, chief executive officer of Mortice Kern Systems Inc., held a seminar at Brock University on Jan. 28, on the concept of "Knowledge Based Business." He said, "It's where computer science and business meet."

His company specializes in the production of computer software for internal use in major businesses from around the world. He said the use of new technology in business has changed the way companies deal with their customers.

Most new money spent on computer technology is spent on software. Software is the engine driving the computer allowing the user to perform tasks.

"Everything is becoming much more software oriented" as companies begin to understand the technology and want to use it because it's "cost effective, easy to use and simple."

"The revolution is still in its infancy," he said, but the trend is on an upward swing.

The Internet's growing popularity is due in large part to the complexity of the new software which enables the user to access information from around the world.

A growing aspect of the Internet is the number of business transactions taking place there on a day-to-day basis. Business conducted on the Internet is referred to as e-business.

"No one doubts that e-business is going to be the next great thing. The debate is over which small start-up company is going to lead the way."

Revolution just starting

Internet-based information and business transaction companies, such as Yahoo Inc. and E-bay, make great financial investments, he said. Investors should be warned, however, stock values are much higher than earnings' profitability would suggest because real earnings and growth are still in the future.

He said computer technology, software in particular, has a short life expectancy as the next great invention is always "right around the corner."

Canada will have a bright future in the information age, he said, because Canadians "are great producers of raw technology, great innovators."

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Centre Cut Pork Chops	5 lb.	
	60 lbs.	

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N.Y. Striploin Steaks	15 lb.	
Lean Ground Beef	15 lb.	
Centre Cut Pork Loin Chops	15 lb.	SAVE $30.00
Gourmet Sausage	15 lb.	
Hip Roast	15 lb.	
	60 lbs.	

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Eye On Niagara

Student handbook stresses proper conduct

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

"The college maintains that all students are responsible members of the college community and fully accountable for their actions while at the college or while engaged in college activities."

If this doesn't sound familiar, then "look at the book," says Brigitte Chiki, referring to the Niagara College student handbook, which lists students' rights and responsibilities.

Chiki, of Welland, director of student services, says many students aren't fully aware of how many rights and responsibilities they have.

Chiki says the most important right to remember is that students are held responsible as members of the college community and are fully accountable for their actions.

She says the college has the right to evaluate and decide if the behaviour of the student is "the behaviour we want displayed by our members."

Students are also responsible to "refrain from any conduct which is deemed inappropriate."

Chiki says the wording is broad "because it will depend on whether it's occurring in the classroom, outside the classroom or in relation to another student or faculty member."

She says examples of inappropriate conduct would be incessant talking in the classroom, sexist or racist remarks, or using offensive language towards staff in the financial aid office.

An academic responsibility of students is to "respect the faculty member's right to expect decorum and appropriate classroom conduct."

Faculty members have the right to exclude from the class a student not meeting this responsibility, including someone who is "displaying symptoms of substance abuse."

Chiki says, "We would ask a professor to keep an eye out for a student who appears not to be paying attention for physical reasons. Whether they've fallen asleep or seem to be slurring, or smell . . . they might come right out and say 'I just came from 12 beers at After Hours.'"

She says if the situation occurs again the student "may have a bigger problem."

She says the academic division director, college nurse or her office can help in determining whether "it's a one-day situational problem

BRIGITTE CHIKI

or a long-term medical condition."

Chiki says in lab situations it's dangerous to have an impaired student handling electrical equipment and chemicals.

"You just can't afford, for the students' safety sake and the college's sake, to have a student who is not alert in the classroom."

A fundamental right of students allows them to "express themselves, either individually or as a group, on any subject without hindrance and to publish and distribute opinions while on college property."

Chiki says "without hindrance" means without censure or without being physically removed.

This right sometimes does conflict with another right that says "every student has the right to equitable treatment by the college."

Chiki says students are allowed to express themselves "unless they're very offensive to others. They will be allowed the freedom to speak and write within the laws of Ontario and the country."

An academic right of students is to "have the right to know the college's definition of cheating and plagiarism and the consequences of their detection."

In the handbook, definitions and examples of cheating and plagiarism are given.

Chiki says the list of examples is "in no way . . . exhaustive."

"With increasing information technology they're discovering new things in regards of academic misconduct."

She says this is a result of increased course work being done on computer disks and e-mail.

Different this year from past years is that academic misconduct incidents are centrally recorded in the registrar's office.

She says if a student is caught it isn't limited to occurrences in that department. If the student reoffends in another department it'll be considered a second offence.

"In the academic world, academic misconduct is like first-degree murder. It's very offensive to us to have students try to pass off work that's not their own."

Chiki adds students can appeal any final decisions made about them and their academic status.

She says revisions to the students' rights and responsibilities "are always made."

This year, unlike previous years, only registered students are allowed to attend classes.

This avoids students from bringing their children and friends to class, and possibly being disruptive.

Another change was made to the dress code. Now that females legally can to go topless in public areas, Chiki says, she had it added that toplessness is not allowed on campus. That applies to males too.

She says the college is a semi-private institution. "We have children here. We have multi-cultural students "who may be offended."

In addition, there is no longer a fee for grade appeals.

Chiki says students with complaints can fill out a student issue form so that all the necessary information is available to process.

Forms are available at Counselling, the Learning Resource Centre and academic offices.

Chiki says the form is "an important document for students in having their complaints addressed."

Chiki says changes are made to *the rights and responsibilities* because, "with each new group of students that enters, (there are) different values, different expectations. The laws change sometimes and that forces us to look at our practices and policies."

Disruptive student behaviour 1998-99
Statistical overview

Total number of incidents — 117

Total number of students involved — 134
(71 per cent males: 29 per cent females)

Types of violation
Student Rights and Responsibilities Code — 53
Alcohol Policy/Student Center — 48
Residence Agreement — 15
Criminal Code — 4
Harassment and Discrimination — 4
All other — 12

Actions Taken
2-week suspensions from After Hours — 37
Verbal Warning — 15
Written Warning — 15
Referred to Niagara Regional Police Services(NRPS) — 12
Arrested by NRPS — 10
Informal Resolution — 8
Security Escort — 8
Behavioural Contract — 4
Trespass Notice — 3
Course Condition — 3
Restitution — 3
Code 13 — 3
Monitor Situation — 3
Hospitalization — 2
Financial/moral support — 2
Referred to legal counsel — 1
Withdrawn from program — 1
Suspended from college — 1
Withdrawn from college — 1
Expelled from Residence — 1
1-year suspension from After Hours — 1
Indefinite suspension from After Hours — 1

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WEDNESDAY 9:30 am to 11:20 am
THURSDAY 8:30 am to 11:20 am
Or to the Glendale Campus, SAC Office (Quiet Room)
MONDAY 8:30 am TO 4:20 pm
TUESDAY 8:30 am to 12:20 pm and 2:30 pm to 4:20 pm
WEDNESDAY 11:30 am to 4:20 pm
THURSDAY 8:30 am to 12:20 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:20 pm
FRIDAY 12:30 pm to 4:20 pm

If you require more information please contact the St. Catharines Tax Services Office at 984-2359 or Niagara College at 735-2211, ext 7777.

SAC

SAC an enjoyable experience

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council (SAC) members do more than sit around their office deciding what to do with students' money. They attempt to organize fun events for all students and have fun doing it.

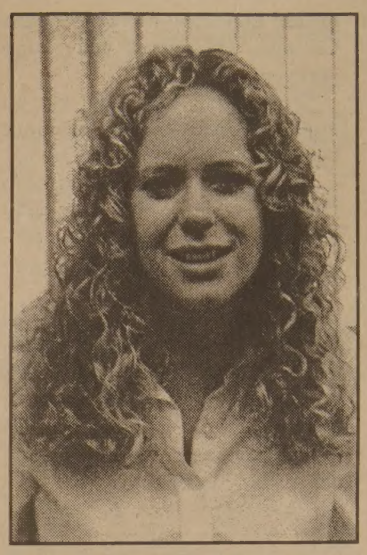
"I've always wanted to be involved in the student body, making college life more fun for the students," says Aynsley Warden, SAC vice-president of campus affairs for Niagara College's Welland campus.

Warden, 21, a second-year student in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program, says she was interested in becoming a SAC member since last year.

"Actually, I was interested in it last year," says Warden, "and when I heard they were still needing people for SAC this year, I came in and got my application kit."

Warden says her SAC duties include "helping to organize college events and activities" and "maintaining communication between the community and the college."

Attempting to make Niagara College students more aware of SAC is something else Warden says she does.



AYNSLEY WARDEN

"I don't think many students know very much about SAC. The ones that do know about it, I think they feel it's important because they realize if we weren't here, a lot of the activities they do wouldn't be going on, but I don't think many students know what exactly we do here."

Warden says all SAC can do is try to convince the students what's done is for the students' enjoyment.

"We're here to put on fun things for the rest of the college. I think there needs to be a lot more announcements and advertisements of what SAC does, of what events are going on. Posters are great, but not everybody reads the posters. We need to find another way to get to those students who don't read the posters or who don't read the newspapers."

Warden says she gets along well with other SAC members and they don't usually have many conflicts.

"We get along great. We have such a blast. Here, we just seem to click really well together. We enjoy going out with each other, outside of SAC. We just have a great time."

As for her experience throughout the school year, Warden says she has enjoyed it.

"It's been wonderful. I've met so many people, learned so many new things and I think it's really done a lot for me, my personality. I've really enjoyed it. It's something I'll never forget."

Reles dons SAC political hat

KEVEN RELES

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Kevin Reles is the new vice-president of campus events for the Student Administrative Council (SAC) at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He fills the post vacated by former vice-president Michael Berry. A byelection was held Feb. 15.

Reles is in his second year of the Operations Management program.

There were four nominees for the position. Of the entire Glendale campus student population, 98 people voted. Fifty-five of the votes were for Reles.

"I wanted to run this year because I knew I wouldn't have a chance next year," says Reles. "I would have liked to get a full term as vice-president, but this is fine with me."

His campaign slogan was "Go big, or go home" and it seemed to work for him.

"I know having this responsibility will be good experience for me."

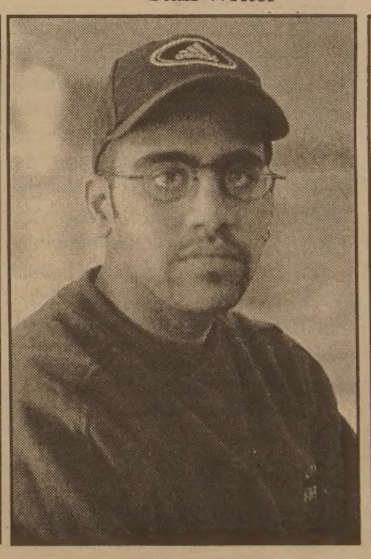
Reles says he hasn't sat down and decided what he would specifically like to do yet for SAC, but he's sure to be coming up with ideas soon.

Reles says he would like to thank Kelly Thompson for motivating him to run for the position and telling him that he would be perfect for it.

Word on campus
How do you feel about Glendale?

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Joel Carriere, 20, a second-year student in the Business Administration and Marketing program, says the pub is "all right. It's the only thing to do in the whole school." He says he doesn't know what the Student Administrative Council (SAC) has done."



Mazin Albusaidi, 19, a second-year student in the Business Administration program, says the campus and the pub are "good. I like the atmosphere in here (the pub)." He says SAC is "making a lot of entertainment," adding, they are "keeping the students busy." He says he thinks they are doing a good job.

Steve Nelson, 20, a first-year student in the Business Administration and Marketing program, says the pub is "good." He says he likes the pub because "my friends come here." SAC does a "good job," says Nelson, adding, "I like the events."

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'Working for all students'

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Doing two jobs and travelling between two campuses is all part of her job.

Chris Williams describes her job as "working for all students."

Williams is the office manager for the Glendale Student Administrative Council (SAC), Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Maid of the Mist Centre's SAC, Niagara Falls.

Dealing with student inquiries, recording the minutes for SAC meetings, renting videos for quiet rooms, dealing with housing, making bank deposits for the pub and doing other administrative tasks, for the two campuses, keeps Williams busy.

She says the most difficult part of her job is "not enough hours and time management."

The best part of her job is "the students. That's what makes it all worth while," Williams says.

Jen McGregor, the Glendale SAC president, says, "She (Williams) is attentive towards students . . . and quick to respond" to their problems.

Williams describes the Glendale SAC representatives as "hard working."

They're "really involved in what the students care about." Williams says she finds dedication to be true with SAC at all the campuses.

The best quality of the Glendale SAC is its "cohesiveness," says Williams, adding, "whenever one is is working on a project all will help. They work together."

The goal for the Glendale SAC was to "get out and running, try to address student concerns and meet expectations," Williams says.

She says she thinks they've "definitely" achieved this goal.

Williams says, they "fought hard to get perky things, like games and cards, the little things that make the whole thing run smoothly and make people more comfortable."

Williams applied for this job through the newspaper, was hired in June and started in August. Williams moved from Brantford, where she worked with youth at the St. Leonard's Society of Brant and as a secretary for five years.

CHRIS WILLIAMS

She moved because her husband's company is in St. Catharines.

Williams has been married for 17 years and has a daughter, Laura, 14, and a son, Scott, 10.

International

Education fair attended by college rep

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

It's the way to draw international attention to Niagara College.

Marti Jurmain, 50, of St. Catharines, director of the New Product Development Department at Niagara College's Glendale campus, participated in the Education Fair in Malaysia and Brunei.

"The purpose of my visit to those two countries was student recruitment. I presented materials on Niagara College and its programs for students who are interested in coming to Canada and studying," Jurmain said.

The fair was run by the Canadian embassy, which liaised with the Canadian Education Centre (CEC).

"This is the way to increase your presence overseas in order to have students become interested in Canada or the Niagara Region," Jurmain said.

In addition to participating in the fair, she met with one of the agencies called Kemuda in Brunei.

Kemuda, a Human Resources and Development Agency, has a program for high school students who want to find jobs and do some contract training.

In Malaysia, she said, she visited two colleges, Taylor's and Sunway, that teach at the high school level and provide some university degree programs.

"I was considering if there was any chance of connecting some of their programming to Niagara College," said Jurmain, adding those programs are provided in an "education plan."

Jurmain mentioned there were two Malaysian students who submitted applications for Niagara College, while there were none applying in Brunei.

MARTI JURMAIN

"For them, they must get an approval from the government because they are supported by it."

Jurmain said students in both countries learn English from early ages, so they are looking for programs such as post-secondary, post-graduate or university degree.

"They are especially interested in hospitality, computer programming, hotel management, public relations and multi-media programs."

This is her third year travelling to Malaysia, said Jurmain.

For the first year, she said she went to the fair and met the main people at the CEC office.

For the second year, she tried to visit some schools and develop relationships with agencies.

For this year, she added more items to the plan. "The more there are Canadian institutions overseas, the more the presence is raised."

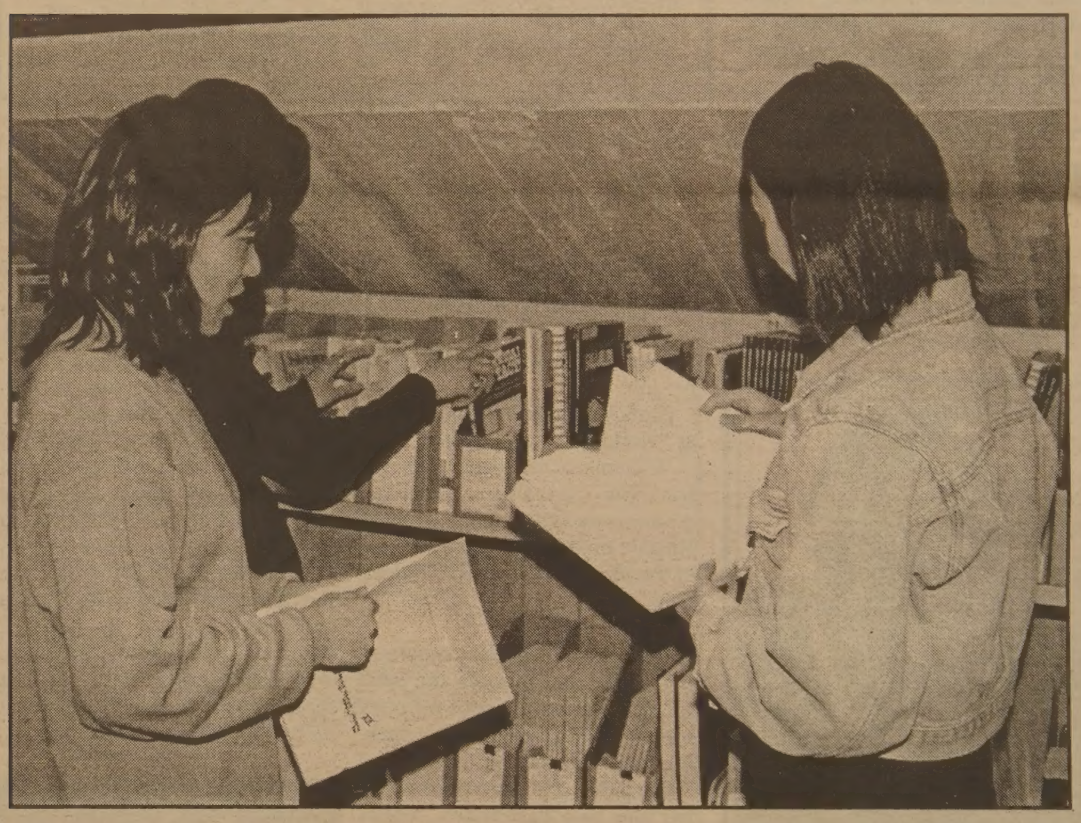
Jurmain explained many students in Malaysia and Brunei generally go to the United Kingdom, Australia or the U.S.

"Canada is a good bargain for high-quality education." She added Niagara College's international activities have grown "tremendously" over the years.

"It's one of our main priorities. It gives you an international experience and reputation."

Jurmain also indicated "international students change the college by being in programs. They make it more valuable for Canadian students and broaden their perspective on the world."

ESL books now at Welland campus



Chinatsu Sasaki, 23, left, Rie Nishijima, 22, and Yayoi Ishihara, 30, all of Japan, look through the ESL books that are located in the library.

Photo by Jackie Field

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The English as a Second Language (ESL) program now has a specific section in the Niagara College library.

Located behind the A through B shelves are the ESL books, which take up about three shelves in the Welland campus LRC.

Sue Bartlett, library technician lead-hand, said the books are available for students to sign out and use as they wish.

The collection was located at the St. Catharines campus, but when that closed, discussion was over whether it should be moved to the new Glendale campus.

After careful consideration, the collection was moved to the Welland campus, as it is home to the ESL and international students.

With the help of Susan Vandenboom, ESL co-ordinator, and Bartlett, the books were sorted. Ones beneficial to ESL students were placed in the library.

Vandenboom said some books were published as long ago as 1970 and so weren't useful to the students.

"We donated them to an organization in Niagara-on-the-Lake where they'll be shipped overseas to Eastern Europe."

Trish Labonte, head librarian, said the books are for all skills levels and are arranged according to call numbers.

The volumes were regularly used at the St. Catharines campus. It's hoped they'll be used as much at the Welland campus.

Labonte said Vandenboom assisted library staff in sorting through the collection and took some to the international office.

Reference items benefit students who travel overseas

They include novels, grammar books and reference books.

Along with texts there are audio and videotapes.

Vandenboom says she thinks the ESL readers and Test of English as a Foreign Language study books will be popular.

The reference items will benefit students who want to travel overseas, said Vandenboom.

The tapes are for in-library use only.

"I'm happy to have the collection here," said Vandenboom.

Student travels internationally for training

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

Nancy McDonald took the international in Niagara College's International Education Department literally. She went to China.

McDonald, 47, of Niagara Falls, went there for three weeks after completing research on potential training opportunities for the college.

McDonald is a part-time student in the International Trade program.

"In the last summer, I completed my research, as Jos requested, and made some presentations and recommendations."

In Niagara Falls, there is a college division called Ventures.

One of its jobs is to "provide customized contract training to businesses which range from small, medium to large sized in the Niagara Region."

She said Niagara College wanted to determine whether or not there'll be similar opportunities for that kind of business in China.

"What I'll be looking at is where the possibilities of international businesses in China are."

According to McDonald, there's a possibility the Chinese might be interested in some Western training of their employees or management.

"Actually, Niagara College is going to have some Chinese visitors, business people as well as educators, in March," said McDonald, adding it's a group she dealt with while she was in China.

"When I was there representing Niagara College, a working relationship between that party and the college was formed around the customized contract training for businesses."

McDonald mentioned there'll be further development on what working relations can be and a return trip to China from Niagara College in May.

In addition to working on contract training in China, McDonald said she also "provided some information about the process of applying to the college and its programs."

"I found a number of the Chinese people who already have good English skills, and there are also some students who want to brush up on their English for a short time."

She added, "China is a large country and is opening up and welcoming many different international businesses."

"There's going to be lots of opportunities for developing a working relationship with China. It's just a matter of initiating that kind of contract training for businesses."

Focus on Finance

New programs on menu

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Trying to fulfil the needs of the individual, the students and Niagara College has brought an opportunity to develop post-graduate programs.

David Berry, co-ordinator of post-graduate studies at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, says there are two new offerings there.

The first, Hotel Management Systems, is scheduled to start in September.

The second program will start in January 2000 and is called Tourism Development.

Berry says the Hotel Management Systems program is designed so that graduates of the two-year program, with experiences in the division levels, can come into a program that will draw them all together.

Some of the levels include front desk operations and food and beverage management.

"They'll be able to recognize some of the intricacies in the systems that are required in order to operate the hotel."

The program's objective is to allow graduates, after appropriate experience, to reach general manager levels in a small- to mid-sized hotel, Berry says.

"What we're trying to do is develop this program in the concept of leadership through team work and technology."

Berry says students will be presented with a designated room in the Maid of the Mist Centre. They'll do projects and assignments in a group environment as well as individually.

"Their learning environment is going to be simulating a work environment."

DAVID BERRY

He says the overall objective is to have the student recognize the team environment as a "critical" element of success in the hotel industry.

Berry says the Tourism Development program's focus will be to allow students with interests in a tourism area to develop ideas from concept, through feasibility study to final execution.

"The whole product that you think of, in terms of the tourist product, can be so varying and so wide," he says. "I think people have to recognize the proper research has to be done. The proper marketing has to be done. The financial stability of that idea has to be investigated, and the concept has to be put through the entire entrepreneurial approach."

He says students in the program's first four months will be gaining an understanding of the development stages. The next four months will involve working with industry in a co-op placement.

"There's two sides to it. You're investigating these concepts for the first four months and then working in them for the other four months."

Although the enrolment in the Tourism Development program has not been finalized, the Hotel Management Systems program will accept 25 students.

Berry says when students come out of the hotel program, they'll be "totally proficient not only in the analysis using computers, but the communication techniques that are required to use them. I think that's critically important."

"Our students have to be able to present themselves using that technology (computers)."

So impressed was Sally McGarr Real Estate's Welland office with the new advertising plan and campaigns created for it by the second-year Marketing 411 advertising course students, last fall, two financial awards were presented. In the photo above, Sally McGarr, left, presents a $500 first prize award to Juergan Harder, Brent Way and April Hopgood as Rick Smith and Cam Gray of Sally McGarr Realty offer congratulations. Below, a $250 second-prize was given by Sally McGarr, at left, to Tracey Beekman, Tim Penny and Christine Barbarillo assisted by Rick Smith and Cam Grey. Absent for the photograph was Zuwana Ali. The course is taught by Beth Schier-Pett in the Business and Entrepreneurship Division at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Contributed photos

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Tax return by telephone

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The telephone was a great invention.

Not only can you talk to people worldwide but now the telephone can be used to file income taxes through a telephone-based system called TELEFILE.

This new way of filing your taxes is "only available to seniors, low-income individuals, students and people on social assistance," said John Pruyn, Revenue Canada's E-File co-ordinator.

It's a quick way through the telephone to file basic income tax returns for individuals.

Pruyn said, "Several million invitations were sent out in the mail with a TELEFILE code in your 1998 income tax package."

Anyone with a rotary phone will not be able to use this method. The phone key pad is the main element in this process.

With TELEFILE, all you need do is prepare your income tax return and then call the toll-free number.

You'll hear an automated message that will guide you through the steps.

You'll need your social insurance number, TELEFILE access code and a touch-tone phone.

If you owe money, you're still able to use TELEFILE. Your payment must be made by April 30, 1999.

The payments can be made at Revenue Canada offices or at any financial institution.

To ensure privacy while using the new system you should not use a cellular or cordless phone. Wireless technology can be picked up by certain electronic devices.

TELEFILE is quick and easy and cuts down on processing time.

Anyone receiving a refund can expect it within two weeks of filing.

If the receipt is filed before February, your refund won't be sent till the end of February.

This is the second year Revenue Canada has offered this method of filing income taxes over the phone free of charge.

It started in the Atlantic provinces four years as a pilot project, and the service went national two years ago, said Pruyn.

This year TELEFILE was heavily promoted, and he hopes it will be more successful.

"See it as an option, no cost on your return."

TELEFILE is available seven days a week from Jan. 28 to April 30, 1999, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If anyone has questions there are TELEFILE pamphlets available and 800 numbers: 1-800-959-1114 for service in English and 1-800-959-1116 in French, along with a Revenue Canada Web site: www.rc.ca/telefile/.

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Editorial

Niagara News

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Editor: Tyler-Leigh Robinson, **Associate Editor:** Angela Pickering, **Assistant Editor:** Sharilyn Johnson **Publisher:** Leo Tiberi, director Communications and Information Technology, **Managing Editor:** Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program, **Associate Managing Editor:** Gary Erb, instructor Journalism-Print program, **Advertising Managers:** Ron Crowley, Ron Tufts, advertising instructors, **Advertising-Account Manager:** VBS Advertising, Ron Crowley, **Advertising Design:** Tracy Jay, Ron Crowley, **Photography Consultant:** Jhim Burwell, photography instructor, **Photography Editor:** Sarah Storm, **Photography Crew:** Film Processing: Elisabeth Irwin, Debbie Richardson; Contact Sheets: Sara DeTamble, Noelle Stapinsky, Jodi Gerling; Scanning Crew: Mun-Hee Shin, Larissa Kondusky, Angela Pickering, Jackie Field, Robin Morais.

Tuition pushes students away

Tuition fees for colleges and universities are increasing again, but for whose benefit?

The increase was to improve the post-secondary facilities and course content the schools provide.

The overall opinion is that with these improvements students will have a better chance to gain practical skills and receive a richer school experience.

Are current and prospective students really willing to put themselves into deep debt situations all in the name of education?

Many students who are deciding if college or university is the path they want may be turned off by these recent tuition hikes.

The post-secondary facilities are saying the 10 per cent increase is necessary, but what good will it do if, in the end, it pushes away the very people it's trying to educate?

Education is a valuable opportunity everyone should be able to experience, but if costs continue to rise as the years go by, those opportunities for people to better themselves will be severely limited.

Tyler-Leigh Robinson

Society has bigger issues

Of all the problems society must endure, here comes the biggest one of all.

We have an evangelizing minister who preaches the word of God, and his greatest concern is whether Tinky Winky is gay. For those who don't know, Tinky Winky is the purple character on the hit children's show, *Teletubbies*.

The Rev. Jerry Falwell has decided it's his prerogative to let the public know that even purple-costumed characters can be gay too. Of course, to him, that's a sin and a terrible thing to which children shouldn't be exposed.

Never mind there are children who live in homes with same-gender parents. Never mind that the homosexual community has been very vocal and known in society for years.

Falwell's theory that Tinky Winky is gay is completely based on three clues. The triangular symbol on Tinky's head is supposed to be the gay pride symbol. Purple is supposed to be gay pride colour. He also carries a purse, which is actually called the magic bag.

We've watched the show and we can barely tell who is female or male, let alone that one of them is gay.

It amazes us how someone like Falwell can come up with such a completely stupid idea and get such public interest.

Does anyone actually think children who watch that show see anything but cute, little, colourful characters running around making noises?

It's ridiculous to think the person who originated the *Teletubbies* decided to secretly portray one of them as homosexual.

We'd like to know where Falwell gets off saying that if Tinky Winky is gay, it's setting a bad example for children, or is a bad influence somehow.

All we have to say is grow up! Society needs to stop listening to people who have nothing better to do with their time than start ridiculous stories.

Unfortunately, the *Teletubbies* has been picked apart and analyzed to death because of this issue. We think the show is wonderful for children. It's simple, colourful and full of laughter and learning.

Perhaps one of the biggest problems society has to endure is not Tinky Winky's sexuality, but rather the Jerry Falwells of our time.

Angela Pickering

Graduation time

Niagara College will have five separate graduation ceremonies in early June at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The 1999 convocation ceremonies will be held June 8, June 9 and June 10 at the Glendale campus and not at Welland's Centennial High School as in past years.

Students in the Administrative and Justice Studies programs, such as Call Centre Management, Correctional Worker, Law and Security Administration, Legal Assistant (Co-op) and Office Administration- Executive (Co-op) will have their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 p.m., along with students from Foundation Studies, such as College Vocational, General Arts and Science and Health Science Preparatory. Students from Integrated Manufacturing and Skills programs, such as Manufacturing Technician, Quality Control Technician, Construction Engineering, Technology-Architecture, Mechanical Engineering Technology (Co-op) will also have their ceremony on Tuesday, June 8, at 7 p.m.

Students from the Communication and Information Technology Division will have their graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 9, at 2 p.m. Those programs include the following: Arts/Design Fundamentals, Electrical Engineering Technician, Electronic Engineering Technician, Journalism-Print, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film, Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op), Electrical Engineering Technology (Co-op), Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op), Computer Network Operations (post-graduate), Interactive Multimedia (post-graduate) and Public Relations (post-graduate).

Students from the Business and Entrepreneurship programs will have their graduation ceremonies on Wednesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. Those programs include the following: Business-Accounting (Academic) Business-Retail Management, Business-Sales, Business Administration-Accounting (Academic), Business Administration-Accounting (Co-op), Business Administration-Human Resources (Co-op), Business Administration-Marketing (Co-op) and Business Administration-Operations Management (Co-op).

Meanwhile, students in the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness programs will also have their ceremony on Wednesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. Those programs include the following: Environment, Health and Safety Co-ordinator, Environmental Technician (Co-op), Ecosystems Restoration (post-graduate), Environmental Assessment (post-graduate), Geographic Information Systems (post-graduate).

Students from the Health and Community Studies Division will have their graduation ceremonies on Thursday, June 10, at 2 p.m. Those programs include the following: Early Childhood Education, Human Relations, Social Service Worker and Child and Youth Worker. Students in the Hospitality and Tourism programs, including Culinary Management, Hotel and Restaurant Management and Hotel and Restaurant Administration will also have their ceremony on Thursday, June 10, at 2 p.m.

Students from Continuing Education and Health and Community Studies, such as Dental Assistant, Paramedic, Pharmacy Assistant, Education Resources and Special Needs and Recreational and Leisure Services will have their graduation ceremonies on Thursday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

Corrections

In the Feb. 5 edition of the *Niagara News* (Vol. 29, No. 8) in an article about the Arthritis Society, the story should have stated the three most common forms of arthritis in Canada are osteoarthritis, rheumatoid and fibromyalgia.

Also, we published a wrong date for the society's "Strike-out" Day at local bowling alleys. The society will be holding a "Strike-out" Day at the Fairview Bowling Lanes in St. Catharines on March 6 and a similar event at the Agro Midtown Bowl in Port Colborne on March 7.

It is the policy of the Niagara News to correct errors of fact.

Viewpoints

Someone for everyone

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

I'm engaged! His name is Mike Ward and he's perfect for me.

For those of you who read my last column (Sadly most marriages do not last forever, Nov. 27, 1998) I was wrong.

When I wrote that column, I focused on need but eliminated love. Maybe I don't need a husband to take out the trash, but I want Mike to share my life.

They say when you meet the right person, you know it. Well, my friend Sara and I walked into a bar in Fort Erie one night. I saw a gorgeous guy, and I thought "wow."

I whispered to Sara, "That's the guy I'm going to marry." Now about three months later we're engaged.

I look into his eyes, and I see our future. There's not a doubt in my head about him. I know we're meant for each other, and we'll always be together.

I want to wake up beside him every morning and fall asleep in his arms every night. I want to have his children and watch them grow with him. I want to walk through life holding his hand.

For those of you who agreed with my last column, don't give up on love. The right person is out there somewhere, and someday you'll meet. You'll gaze into each other's eyes, and you'll just know.

Banning alcohol logical solution

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

I've always enjoyed attending live professional sporting events at big league stadiums. The two I've visited more than others are SkyDome in Toronto and Rich Stadium in Buffalo, N.Y.

Unfortunately, on my last visits to these stadiums, I've left with a bad taste in my mouth.

Last December, after watching the National Football League's Buffalo Bills play the New York Jets, I was in the middle of a fight involving my friend. Obviously, I was going to help my friend. My brother helped as well, but the reward for my troubles was being pushed down three rows of seats.

A few weeks ago at SkyDome, I watched the World Wrestling Federation's Raw is War. The wrestling itself was very entertaining and quite enjoyable.

What I didn't enjoy, however, was the half dozen or so fist fights that broke out.

I've come to the conclusion there's only one way to stop the rowdiness and brawling at large stadium events: ban alcohol.

Of course, this decision wouldn't be popular and probably would never be considered because of the revenues generated from booze sales.

Something has to be done, however. Promoters and organizers of events should seriously consider banning alcohol. I'm sure they want to create an environment suitable for a family atmosphere. No, one non-drinking section per stadium is useless.

If banning alcohol is out of the question, then I have another solution. It was an idea I got after going to see Metallica play at the Molson Amphitheater in Toronto last July.

Their idea was perfect. Limit the number of places in the stadium that sell alcohol. I believe there was one per section with each holding about 12 booths. This causes long lineups, which may deter some people who don't wish to stand in line for 45 minutes.

The most important point of this idea is to limit the sale to one alcoholic beverage to a customer. This prohibits people standing in line to get beer for their buddy or even to get it for underage drinkers.

I believe this is something that should be practiced to create a safer experience for everyone who wants to attend an event.

The thing that's hard to believe is where I first saw this. Who would have thought the last "civilized" event I attended was a heavy-metal concert?

Korean missiles target Canada

The threat of five, 10 or 20 missiles from North Korea is considered a serious threat by the U.S.

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The race is on — again.

The United States has asked Canada to help establish a new North American missile defence system.

This request follows a published report by the U.S. Army's War College to three members of Parliament, a Reformer, a Liberal and a Conservative in early February. It stated Canada, more specifically Montreal, would be a likely target for North Korean nuclear missiles.

The report has been dismissed by most as laughable. After all, what sort of threat does Canada represent to North Korea?

However, our neighbours to the south take the threat seriously enough to proceed with the building of an intercepting missile defence system to be in place by 2005.

To help understand the situation you should be aware of recent developments in Asia.

North Korea tested its Taepo Dong 1, a two-stage medium-range ballistic missile on Aug. 31, 1998. During the test the missile traveled 1,300 kilometres and landed in the Sea of Japan.

The Centre for Defence and International Security Studies (CDISS) at Lancaster University in Britain posted a report on the World Wide Web in September 1998 outlining the significance of this test.

Canada, more specifally Montreal, is a likely target for North Korean missiles.

The report stated this test may be a steppingstone toward building the larger Taepo Dong 2, a two-stage missile system with an estimated range of 6,000 kilometres.

The CDISS said this classifies the Taèpo Dong 2 as an inter-continental ballistic missile, and the development of this weapon would give North Korea the capability of targeting the United States.

With this recent request by the United States we can safely assume North Korea has accomplished this.

The old worries of thousands of missiles coming over the North Pole from the former Soviet Union are no longer the concern. The threat of five, 10 or 20 missiles *from a belligerent nation such as* North Korea is considered a serious threat by the U.S.

The Americans have asked Canada to help by setting up early warning radar sites in the Canadian arctic. The missiles intercepting these attacks will be placed in states such as North Dakota.

So it looks like our fears of nuclear annihilation have not been quelled by the demise of the Soviet Union.

Don't panic. This doesn't mean we should all build bomb shelters in our backyards, but it does mean we should take a closer look at the balance of power in today's world.

If indeed this threat exists, the next millennium could see the start of a new Cold War.

Shortage of ideas mean recycled

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

What is it with movies today? Everything coming out seems the same as one already released.

The trend started last year when *Deep Impact* was released in the spring. In the summer *Armageddon* hit the theatres.

The movies have the same plot. A big meteor is hurtling toward us and is going to destroy the planet. The only thing stopping it is a crew who must fly to it, drill holes into the middle of it and set off a nuclear bomb to blow it to smithereens. Aside from little differences in people's lives (both plots are very weak), the movies are identical.

Adding to our discomfort, along came *Antz*, an animated movie with lots of big-name celebrity voices including Woody Allen, Sharon Stone and Sylvester Stallone.

A few months later *A Bug's Life* took a six-legged walk to the theatres. The movie featured the voices of Sandra Bullock, Kevin Spacey, David Hyde Pierce and Canadian David Foley.

Déja vu: Ants are attacked and must use their numbers to destroy their foes. An outcast ant becomes a hero and wins the heart of the princess.

How about *The Truman Show*? The film, starring Canadian Jim Carrey, focuses on a man used as entertainment his entire life. He is constantly on TV and doesn't realize it. Anyone who turns on the tube can see what he's doing.

EDtv, to be released in the near future, is about a man who agrees to have his life followed by a TV camera.

There must be a shortage of ideas for movies today. The plot line keeps being recycled but the scripts are written differently.

Here's another case in point. *At First Sight*, starring Val Kilmer and Mira Sorvino, is about a man who is blind, gets his sight back only to lose it again. The movie focuses on the effect it has on him and the people around him.

Aside from little differences, the movies are identical.

Earlier in the decade a movie called *Awakenings* was released. The movie starred Robin Williams and Robert DeNiro. It was about patients who suffered from a disease that put them into a comatose state. A doctor finds treatment for the disease. The stricken people learn how to live a whole new life, until the end of the movie when the medicine stops working and the patients return to normal. Both movies are based on a true story and have a very similar mood.

It's understandable that after a century of film making it should be difficult to come up with new ideas, but that is no excuse for so many poor movies.

If I am going to pay $7.50 and sit in an uncomfortable chair for two hours, writers and film makers could at least attempt to make it worth my time and money. Otherwise, they're going down a dead-end street. If they don't at least try to make original movies, they may as well tell moviegoers to just go to Blockbuster and rent the same one that just came out. At least that way our backs won't hurt.

Eye On Niagara

25 years later, still serving proudly

Photo by Thies Bogner

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

WELLAND — He has served his country for the past 25 years.

In order of political importance in Canada, he is ranked fifth behind the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Speaker of the Senate.

The Hon. Gilbert Parent was elected Speaker of the House of Commons on Jan. 17, 1994, and was re-elected on Sept. 22, 1997.

At 63, Parent is the second speaker in Canada's history to be chosen by secret ballot by House of Commons members.

Prior to becoming speaker he was a representative for the riding of St. Catharines in 1974. He was re-elected for the federal riding of Welland in 1979 and 1980, and elected in 1988 and 1995 for the riding of Welland-St. Catharines-Thorold. He is MP for Niagara Centre.

The first Speaker of the House of Commons was James Cockburn who served from 1867 to 1874.

The speaker is the most senior official in the House and must carry out his responsibilities in a non-partisan manner and with strict impartiality.

He maintains order in the Chamber and is responsible for procedural activities. In addition, the speaker acts as the chairman of the Board of Internal Economy, overseeing the administration of 1,370 House of Commons employees and its annual budget, which exceeds $235 million.

As well, the speaker welcomes visiting dignitaries and represents the House at home and abroad.

Parent sat down with *The Niagara News* in January to discuss a variety of issues ranging from current affairs to Canada's future.

The Mattawa, Ont., native said he's proud of the fact the House has been functioning "reasonably well."

An understanding among House leaders expanding Question Period to 30 questions daily, from its original average of 24.

"The reason is the questions have been cut to 35 seconds and the answers have to be done in 35 seconds," he said.

Parent said he's proud of opening the House of Commons to the Canadian people.

"They are now permitted and even encouraged to come on to the floor of the House of Commons when the House is not in sitting."

This is significant because Canadians have never been received in the House for 127 years, he said.

The House's role in the new millennium will be to serve as a voice for the Canadian people. "(Our role is) to prepare a debate and pass amended legislations so that our people can live in a prosperous and peaceful country."

Parent said he see's Canada having a "very rich future."

"This year we have tremendous potential in our people and in our resources. We are one of the most respected nations of the world."

On international issues Parent predicts a free trade agreement being implemented for North, South and Central America by the year 2010. He credits Canada for having diplomatic relations with Cuba for the past 50 years despite the United States' blockading them.

"We don't agree of course with the type of government that is there in Cuba, in the sense that it is not a democracy as we know it, but, then again, neither is China and neither was Russia and yet we had dealings with them."

As well, he sees the euro becoming as strong a currency as the American dollar and as the Japanese yen was before their economic crisis began.

"Some people say that we should be considering going to a common currency for the Americas. That could come to that, but I think once you give up your economic sovereeignty, sooner or later your political sovereignty will be impacted upon," he said.

Onto the inevitable topic of U.S. President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial, Parent said he thinks it's a "farce." He blasts the media for prying into people's private lives and for its mishandling of information. "People in public life are not held in as high esteem as they were before and I think this is a direct result, perhaps, of the people's actions themselves, but also the way the media has pursued people in public life."

He said people rarely hear stories of the good people do. "I would say that 99 per cent of the people in public life are there with the best of intentions and they want to help their country."

He said he believes there are as many dishonourable people in public life as there are doctors, teachers and lawyers and perhaps fewer than there are in the media. To control the media, however, would be a mistake, because doing so means giving up freedom of speech, one of the very bases of freedom.

"You take the good with the bad and you hope they (the media) will report things as they are rather than editorialize on it — and rather than follow the cult of personal vindictiveness."

Parent defends the Canadian dollar, saying the economy is strong. Most Canadians, in comparison with virtually any other society, are doing quite well.

After 25 years of public service, Parent said he has no plans for retirement.

"My plans are to continue in this life until I no longer enjoy it. So far, I enjoy it very much."

If Parent had one message which could reach every Canadian citizen, it would be "learn more about your country and learn more about who you are.

"Study not only the present day, study the history of what we've come through together. After all, this is their country, it's my country, it's our country and we've built it quite well."

TSN B.E.S.T. award

Mark Blimke, of Pickering, Ont., left, received his bursary check from TSN's B.E.S.T. award, for $700 on Feb. 19 at Niagara College's Welland campus. The cheque was presented to him by the Stu Black, Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) co-ordinator. Blimke applied for the TSN bursary through the BRTF program with the intention of gaining a work placement. The award helps students further their education in the industry and helps them financially with the cost of tuition.

Photo by Noelle Stapinsky

Student Appreciation Day March 19

Staff Writer

The third annual Student Appreciation Day at Niagara College is set for Wednesday, March 19.

Staff in all departments, programs and offices across the college are invited to participate in the celebration of college students.

Student Appreciation Day is a "wonderful opportunity" to express to students thanks for their choice to study and train at Niagara, says Brigitte Chiki, the college's director Student Services Division.

A wide variety of events and activities are planned with prizes to be given to a number of students. The prizes will include food, books and clothing certificates, cinema passes, college T-shirts, baseball caps, and electronics and computer accessories.

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Health Issues

Tips provide guidance for at-home dental care

BY SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

You brushed your teeth three times today. You chew sugarless gum because you think it's good for your teeth. You use whitening toothpaste to make your smile even brighter.

If you do, you may just be doing more harm than good, says Ursula Pelissero, a full-time faculty member of the Dental Hygiene/Assistant program.

Pelissero teaches classes such as oral health education and nutrition at Niagara College and says many people unknowingly abuse their teeth and gums with routine "at-home dental care."

Here are some tips to ensure your teeth are getting the best care between dental visits.

• Brush smarter, not harder.

"A lot of people feel that the harder they brush, the better job they're doing, but in reality hard brushing is actually very harmful to the gums," says Pelissero. Gums are soft tissue and will bleed if irritated by a harsh brushing.

Most people liken scrubbing their teeth to "scrubbing a floor," says Pelessero. "A hard brushing to your gums is the same as skinning your knees. Instead of worrying about *how* you're brushing, Pelissero says, you should worry about *where* the toothbrush is going.

"Make sure to get all surfaces of the tooth."

• Basic is best.

What about toothbrushes? The average consumer is bombarded by hundreds of advertisements for different kinds of toothbrushes, angled brushes, bristles and electric brushes, all promising to clean your teeth better than the competition. Not so, says Pelissero.

"Basic is best, as far as toothbrushes are concerned." In fact, Pelissero says, the more expensive angled tooth brushes are more likely to irritate soft gum tissue than their basic counterparts. She recommends you buy a new toothbrush "every three to four months, as soon as the bristles start to splay apart."

• They want your money, honey.

Let's face it, who doesn't want their teeth to be pearly white? Pearly comes at a price. Most whitening toothpastes cost between $5 and $12 a tube. With so many varieties on the market, how do you know which is best?

Actually, says Pelissero, whitening toothpastes are considered cosmetic, which is why they're expensive and don't have to go through U.S. Federal Drug Administration (FDA) testing processes. Some don't even contain proper levels of flouride, which is a necessary component in maintaining good dental health.

As for the cheap, old fashioned standby mixture of baking soda and peroxide, Pelissero says the FDA is conducting a study to see if the long-term use of peroxide in the mouth is cancer causing.

The results aren't in yet, says Pelissero, "but until studies prove otherwise, I would not recommend using peroxide to whiten teeth."

• No gum is the best gum.

"Chewing gum stimulates saliva and irritates the muscles in your jaw," says Pelissero. Human teeth aren't meant to chew all the time, so by chomping on a piece of gum, you're wearing down the ligaments holding teeth in place.

What about the common advertising slogan that chewing sugarfree gum after meals prevents cavities? Pelissero says the best way to clean your teeth when you can't brush is to rinse your mouth out with water. For all the die-hard gum chewers, she says, "If you have to chew gum, definitely chew sugarfree."

• There's no such thing as good sugar.

"It's best to avoid sweets that stick to your teeth unless you can brush right away," says Pelissero. Even healthy foods such as raisins or fruits have sugars that will sit on teeth and cause cavities.

"Teeth can't distinguish between the natural sugars in fruits and juices and the sugars in candy," Pelissero says. "They react with the bacteria which sit on teeth, and if you don't remove them by brushing, cavities start to form."

Good dental care can be achieved at home if the effort is taken. She says brushing regularly, flossing and using a basic flouride toothpaste, combined with regular dental office visits, will ensure teeth can stay healthy for a lifetime.

Level playing field centre's aim

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Centre for Students with Disabilities aims to "level the playing field" for students who require assistance.

That's what Gilles Prescott, co-ordinator for the centre, says "is really the goal of the centre."

"So far, 430 students were serviced this academic year," says Prescott, adding the year runs from April 1 to March 31.

He says he expects more students to come to the centre for help before the end of the year.

There are centres at the Welland (SE102), Glendale (West 102) and Maid of the Mist Centre (Counseling Office) campuses.

Last year, the centre serviced 415 students. "We have an increase every year," says Prescott.

The centre helps students with visual and hearing impairment, learning disabilities, mobility problems, medical problems, brain injury or multiple impairments.

There are many different services the centre offers to help students with disabilities adapt to college life.

Some of the services include notetakers, who, using heat transfer paper, make duplicates of their notes for students who either have arthritis or a disability that inhibits them from taking notes quickly enough during class. Notetakers are given a $50 honorarium a term by the centre for their efforts, says Prescott.

"I'd like to encourage students, when they're aware someone needs a notetaker, to step forward."

Scribes and readers are available for students with manual dexterity impairment, visual impairment or a serious learning disability.

The centre offers counselling to students, peer tutors and self-help and learning strategies workshops to help students cope.

The centre will try to adjust where classes are offered in order to lessen the amount of travel between buildings for students with mobility problems.

Prescott says alternate testing rooms can be arranged for students with attention deficit disorder to help them concentrate while writing.

A variety of assistive devices are offered by the centre to students requiring them. They include textbooks on audio cassette, spell checkers, tape recorders and computers.

Students with visual impairment can use the centre's enlargers and scanners to read text. The scanners work by duplicating a page onto the computer screen and then enlarging it. The computers can read the text to the student.

"That's fantastic for people with visual impairment or learning disabilities," says Prescott. "This was impossible 10 years ago."

The centre offers FM systems to students with hearing impairment. These devices have two parts: a transmitter a lecturing teacher would wear and a receiving device a student would wear to hear the lecture.

Prescott says the centre works on making the school more accessible for students by incorporating ramps, elevators, automatic doors and facilities in washrooms for students.

The centre also has a co-ordinating function that means students can be referred to outside agencies or the centre works with them to help people with disabilities return to school.

The centre recently worked with a brain injury agency to help a girl who had been attending university return to school after an accident, says Prescott.

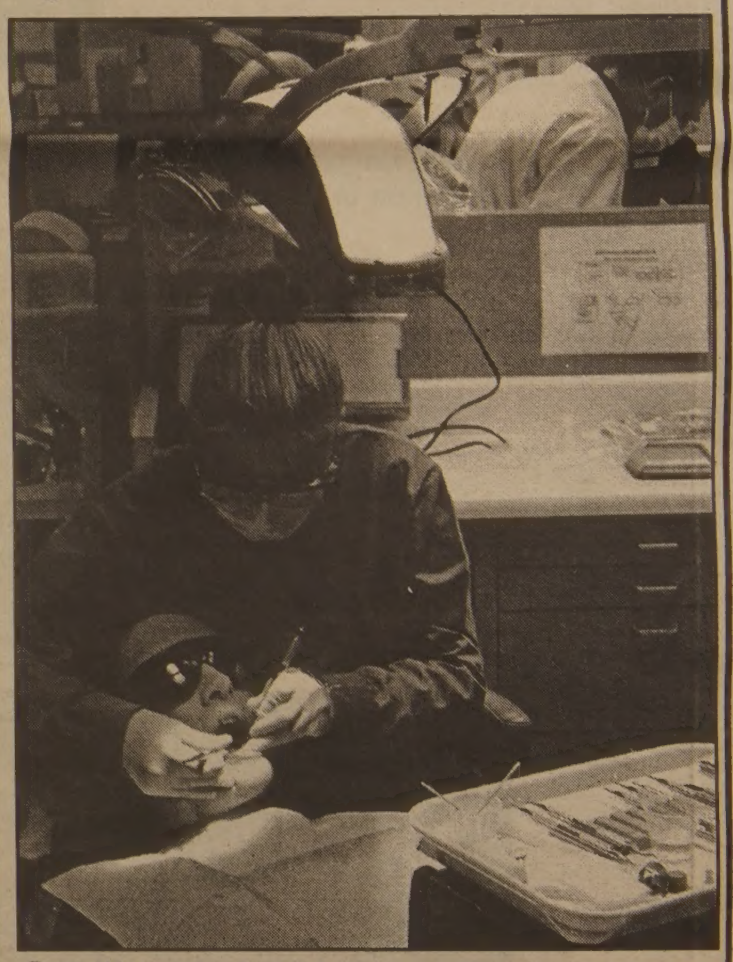
"I think the students appreciate (the centre's services)," he says, adding, "we manage to either steer them in the right direction or help them in some way."

"We get a lot of positive feedback."

Prescott says the centre welcomes any student to come in or call 735-2211 ext. 7602.

"Teachers refer students to us. We've had incidents of students referring other students to us. That's positive."

Open wi-i-i-de



Dental Hygiene student Sylvia Hanna, 21, works on a client at the Niagara College dental clinic. The clinic is in S301 and provides the services of a dental office.

Photo by Sara De Tamble

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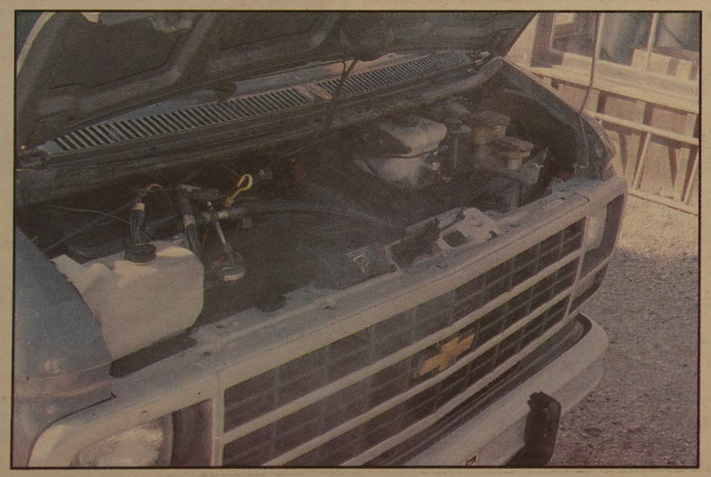
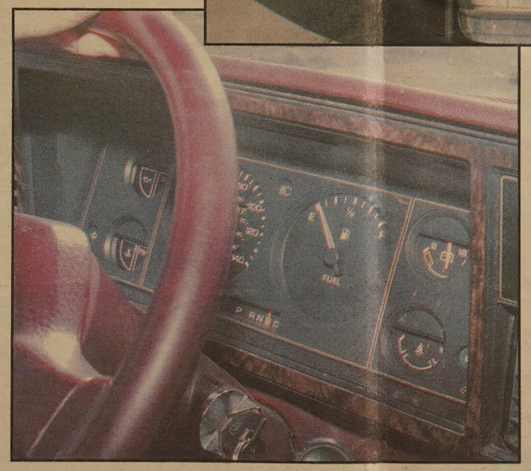
(Above) Where did I leave my keys?

(Right) Hmmm . . . do I know how to do this?

(Below) Is this car going to explode?





(Top and Left) I thought I had enough gas.

(Left) I only left my lights on.

(Above) Watch out! The train is coming!

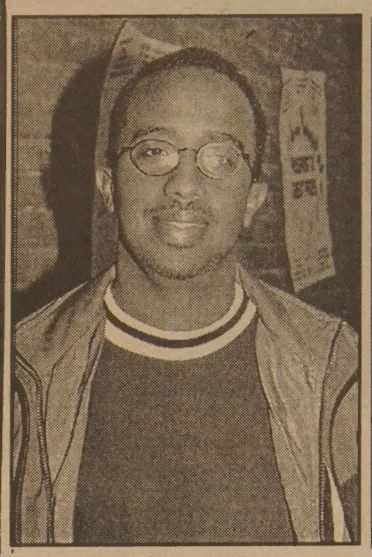
(Below) What's wrong with my car.

Photos by -
Sanja Novakovic
Stacey Schmitt &
Charlie Ashbury

Black History Month

Word on campus

Who do you think was, or is, the most successful African-American?

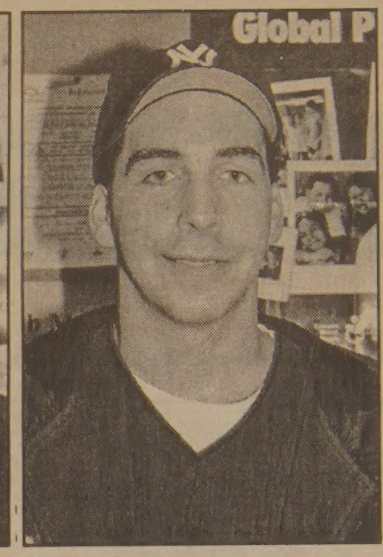


"Kunta Kinte and Malcolm X because they made the black American realize where they came from and to speak out for their rights," said Mohamed Hersi, 26, in the Computer Programmer program.

"Oprah Winfrey because she's a black woman and she did a lot of stuff," said Hibaq Murad, 20, in the General Arts and Science program.

"Martin Luther King because he said, 'I have a dream,'" said Amal Mohamud, 22, in the General Arts and Science program.

"Tupac Shakur because he made lots of money and he re-invented gangster rap," said Michael Verspaget, 19, in the General Arts and Science program.



"Muhammad-Ali because he stood up for himself. He was a good boxer, but also he changed after he went to jail. Now he's like a hero," said John Helwig, 20, in the Computer Programmer program.

Brave regiment fought for liberty, rights

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

They advanced toward the Confederate citadel called Fort Wagner under a deadly hail of cannon and musket fire.

Yet the brave black men of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment ran forward in what was one of the most courageous Union army assaults upon enemy positions during the bloody American Civil War.

The African-American soldiers came very close to overrunning the Confederate stronghold, for they reached inside the fort itself and inflicted heavy losses on their enemies in vicious hand-to-hand fighting.

However, the 54th were driven back after suffering horrific casualties in their near-successful storming of Fort Wagner.

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment lost more than half its men in the attack on this fortress.

Among the dead was the regiment's commander, Robert Shaw.

Fort Wagner was located on the beaches of the southern American state of South Carolina and was a formidable Confederate fortress.

The regiment lost more than half its men in the attack on the fortress.

After the heroic attempt by the "Fighting" 54th to capture it, a white American regiment also tried to storm it but they were also repulsed by the deadly fire of the Confederate defenders.

Under the command of their young, handsome and highly educated officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the 54th Massachusetts became one of the most disciplined and effective fighting units in the Union army during the Civil War.

They were some of the first all-black fighting units to be recruited for combat duty against the southern Confederate armies by the federal government of President Abraham Lincoln in 1863.

A Bostonian by birth, Shaw earned the respect and admiration of his African-American soldiers by leading them with a tough sense of justice and compassion. He never ordered them to do something that he wouldn't have done himself.

Eventually, they grew to love and respect him like a brother and would have fought the Confederates all the way to the gates of hell if he ordered them to.

Shaw and his wealthy family were staunch Northern abolitionists who hated slavery on American soil and were prepared to fight to destroy it.

Shaw knew he'd one day command an African American regiment.

After forming and drilling the recruits into a crack army unit, during the summer of 1863 in South Carolina, he soon realized the politicians in Washington, D.C., weren't interested in giving his men a chance to prove themselves in battle.

Instead, as was the case initially with all of the black Union fighting regiments, they were relegated to doing menial duties in Union camps, such as chopping and hauling timber and digging trenches.

Shaw didn't stand for this. He asked his parents to use their considerable political influence in Washington to rectify the situation.

This was done. His men were soon sent to the front lines to do battle with their Confederate enemies. In time, the "Fighting" 54th distinguished themselves as being warriors second to none in the Union army.

Also, the Confederates were beginning to realize that they now had to face a very tough black fighting regiment in the 54th.

Despite suffering terrible losses at Fort Wagner, the "Fighting" 54th slowly rebuilt itself and continued to fight for the rest of the American Civil War to bring freedom to their enslaved brethren on the slave plantations.

By fighting with tremendous bravery during America's savage Civil War, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment and other black soldiers destroyed the racist stereotype held by many white North Americans at the time that the black man could not fight to free his people from bondage.

African-Canadian community once prosperous

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Few Niagara residents may realize there was once an industrious African-Canadian settlement located in Fort Erie between Ridgemount Road and the Niagara Boulevard.

Wilma Morrison, curator of the Norval Johnson Heritage Library in Niagara Falls, said this community was an economically prosperous one.

She related the history of Niagara's African-Canadians as part of Black History Month, marked in February.

She said the total number of inhabitants was 200. They owned many of the local businesses. The community had its own church, and residents helped to fell and drag trees to the river for the booming shipbuilding industry at the time.

"They sold the rest of it (lumber) to the United States."

Morrison said many African-Canadians helped to build the thousands of miles of roads throughout the Niagara Region.

She said a heroic African-Canadian army unit called the Colored Corps fought with distinction in the War of 1812.

Morisson said Fort Erie had a substantial population of escaped slaves. The first National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) meeting was held in the Erie Beach Hotel in Fort Erie.

She said the recent church burnings in the United States were by people with "little self-worth" and who were "unhappy with themselves."

"It was definitely a blow against the African-American community," she said.

Morrison said members of the Ku Klux Klan and Heritage Front spread their messages of racial hatred within the Niagara Region.

They are "very insecure people who are unhappy with themselves, which is why they continue trying to hurt other who are different from them." She compared them to schoolyard bullies.

Additionally, she had a few words of advice for the Niagara Region as a whole.

"We must not allow these bullies to take over our schoolyards or society and make us unhappy."

She said there have been many people fighting for freedom and justice since the beginnings of slavery in North America.

Next Edition of the Niagara News is March 12th.

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Fellowship

Big Sisters' programs helpful to teen girls

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

A local agency provides young girls with new ideals, personal growth and a close one-on-one friendship through Big and Little Sister relationships.

The Big Sisters Association of Welland, Port Colborne and Pelham has been providing support and guidance to young girls within the community for more than 30 years.

The agency's mission statement says the organization is to provide girls with an opportunity to have a friendship with a mature, stable woman in order to gain personal and social growth.

At the end of 1998, the agency had 71 Big Sister volunteers and 38 monthly volunteers.

Women over the age of 18 who are responsible and mature and have a genuine interest in children are eligible to be a Big Sister.

Each volunteer applicant is subject to a six-week extensive background check including reference and police checks before they are able to continue with the application process.

The potential Big Sister is asked to speak to a case worker concerning the expectations she has in a Little Sister, and go over the responsibilities required in being a volunteer.

One of the requirements of being a Big Sister is agreeing to a one-year commitment.

The Big Sister must attend a training session before she can be finally matched with a Little Sister.

Given four profiles of young girls who match their preferences, the volunteer has the chance to choose a girl for the final match.

Young girls, between the ages of six and 18 who would like to have a Big Sister, are placed on a five-month waiting list before they're on the actual waiting list for a Big Sister.

Girls who have requested a Big Sister come from a variety of backgrounds ranging from foster homes to single-parent family structures.

Younger girls have a better chance of being matched sooner. As a result, most girls left on the waiting list are teens who have been waiting for close to five years.

Personal growth, close one-on-one relationship

The agency has 140 registered Little Sisters, with 72 of those yet to be matched because of a lack of Big Sister volunteers.

The agency provides other programs for girls, matched or unmatched, such as the Teen Group program.

These meetings provide the girls with the chance to associate with their peers and to talk about issues they're facing.

The agency provides the girls with information and education nights focusing on topics such as healthy eating and self defence.

Throughout the year, Big Sisters holds monthly recreation nights, including activities such as bingo and wiener roasts.

For a woman who'd like to be a Big Sister, but can't make the one-year commitment required, the monthly recreation nights provide the chance to serve as a Big Sister for the night.

Sue Vrbanek, a student in the Child and Youth Worker program at Niagara College in Welland, volunteers at the agency on a weekly basis.

Asked what she gets out of volunteering at the agency, she said, "It's the fulfilment factor and making a positive difference."

Vrbanek said the agency provides the girls with the chance to experience new things, opens a lot of doors and provides them with opportunities.

Linda Brema, the agency's new executive director, said the relationship makes a difference in a girl's life and gives a chance to have "a different spin on life."

Brema said the girls don't often have anyone to talk to or their parents work full-time and don't have the extra time to spend with them.

Big Sisters is partnering with the city of Port Colborne in a basketball tournament during the city's Sports Fest. It will be held Feb. 28 at a Port Colborne high school. Entry fee is $52 for a four-person team. Registration deadline is Feb. 22.

For more information on the tournament contact the Big Sisters agency at (905) 732-2341 or (905) 732-3001.

College Christian group invites all to join

Meets on Monday afternoons in ME105

By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Christian Fellowship welcomes people from any denomination.

Sherry Pearce, a third-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program, has replaced Sara Green as the group's president. She warmly welcomed students to the meeting on Feb. 5 and encouraged everyone to "share what's on their heart."

"I just want to help people, to give them hope. I know things can get rough and tough sometimes, but there is hope," said Pearce.

The gathering allows members to encourage and support each other. This provides the opportunity to share personal difficulties and to offer condolences and good-wishes to those suffering.

A prayer for healing, health and God's protection concluded the evening.

Pearce said people of all denominations, religions or cultural backgrounds are welcomed. "Jesus doesn't pick certain colours or certain types of people. We are all His children and He loves everyone."

Sherry Pearce, holding the Good News Bible, welcomes everyone to participate in the Christian Fellowship group.
Photo by Rachel Czifra

The casual setting is friendly and inclusive of anyone regardless of whether or not that person attends the college.

Pearce said although it's difficult to plan social activities they do have pizza nights, go bowling or have coffee to promote fellowship.

She said she'd love to see the group expand and have a department similar to one the aboriginals or international students have. She'd like to see this centre used as a place students could go for assistance, socializing or prayers.

The group, which meets every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in room ME105, "isn't about a religion or certain rules. It's about God and a relationship with Jesus," said Pearce.

Anyone interested is welcome to join the group next Monday or to call Cindy Blanchard, at the Welland campus Student Administrative Council office, ext. 7659, for further details.

Welland winter program for homeless growing

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

A need-based program for Welland's less fortunate during the winter months is growing.

Reverend Bob Bond, chair of the Out of the Cold steering committee, says the growing demand is a result of the increasing number of those in risk of becoming homeless and those who already are.

The program's primary goal is to help the needy by offering them an evening meal and an overnight stay.

It started three winters ago in Welland as a pilot project. The effort that led to it, though, "goes back many years."

"We'd love not to have this program, but the need is getting larger rather than smaller," he says, "so it will continue."

Bond, a pastoral care co-ordinator at the Welland County General Hospital, says he was approached by the hospital's psychiatry department about helping to set up a shelter.

"Some of the discharged people at the hospital didn't have an appropriate place to go back to. They ended up back at its emergency room."

Since Out of the Cold was already in place in Toronto, the psychiatry department wanted to know whether Welland's faith community "might be able to do such a thing here."

The response was positive, says Bond. Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Division Street in downtown Welland was the first to provide a site for the program's services.

Four churches, including Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church on Empire Street, were part of the program in its second year.

Today, there are about 15 churches involved, including Oak Centre on East Main Street. The program is in effect between November and March each year.

Supporting it are "a number of volunteers," the Canadian Mental Health Association and the Community Legal Services.

Donors include "businesses, credit unions, churches and foundations." Bond says the program receives no governmental funding.

This winter an average of 35 people show up five nights a week at a site serving evening meals, he says. About nine of them stay the night.

On the other hand, about 60 people show up for lunch Monday through Friday at the Holy Trinity Church.

Bond says he'd like to have all the weekdays and nights covered, but so far the program is able to cover only five.

Asked whether the idea of helping the destitute was an easy sell, he said it wasn't to some people.

"There are those who don't believe we have this problem in Welland. They believe by helping they would encourage dependency.

"To some it was an easy sell because they recognize we have a need."

Bond says those who could use the program's services should come forward, given its overall goal is "to make people feel comfortable."

It's a success when people's needs are met, he said.

Entertainment

Big Sugar warms up for Rolling Stones' gig

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Big Sugar singer and guitarist Gordie Johnson sat back and relaxed in a couch under dimmed lights.

The board room of the student centre had been transformed into a posh hospitality suite.

It was one hour to show time and the crowd on the other side of the doors stood and watched the stage in anticipation.

Big Sugar was the surprise band for Molson Canadian's Cheap Date promotion at a show held at Niagara College's After Hours pub.

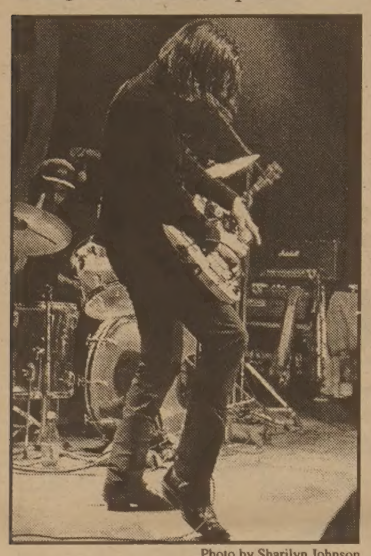


Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

The band was gearing up to open for the Rolling Stones in Toronto Feb. 25, the sole Canadian date of the No Security Tour. The big night was only 48 hours away.

How does a band prepare to open for one of the biggest acts of all time?

"You don't really. It's kind of like studying for a test the night before. If you know the answers, you know them already," said Johnson.

Famous artists tend not to engage their opening acts in conversation, but Johnson expressed no concern over the matter.

"We'll just chill and do our part," he said. "I've talked to Charlie (Watts) on a number of occasions, so I'm sure we'll have the chance to say hi."

The Toronto date came a few weeks late for Big Sugar to play at Maple Leaf Gardens. The Stones concert was played at the new Air Canada Centre.

"I never got to play music at the Gardens," said Johnson, who expressed mixed feelings about the Leafs' former home.

"I liked going to see hockey games there, but I kind of like old school stuff. I like old arenas and stadiums," he said. "Even Maple Leaf Gardens to me was getting kind of modern, so it's not like losing this great old Roman coliseum for this great new space-age thing."

"When they stopped having just plain old organ music between plays, that pretty much ruined it for me," he said.

"I want to play the national anthem at the Raptors game," he said, laughing.

Big Sugar recently replaced drummer Gavin Brown. The band has been through a handful of drummers, but they didn't choose the heir to the frequently vacant postion out of the blue.

"We actually have an old drummer," said Johnson. "Some of the most popular stuff we play in our live shows he played on our records."

Raffa has only been with the band officially for "a couple of weeks," said Johnson. "He's a great musician."

Johnson was positive about playing that night's Cheap Date show. While on tour for their last album, **Hemi-Vision**, Johnson says "we did a lot of surprise shows, and those were fun to do."

Big Sugar's latest album, **Heated**, was released in September and has hit the gold sales mark in Canada. **Heated** will be released April 6 in the US, where the band is off to next. They play shows in New York City and Boston before March is through.

Big Sugar plays to an appreciative crowd at After Hours pub Feb. 23 as part of the Molson Blind Date series.

Photo by Sarah Storm

Johnson belts one out with the help of bandmate Kelly Hoppe and his harmonica mic.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Big Sugar discography

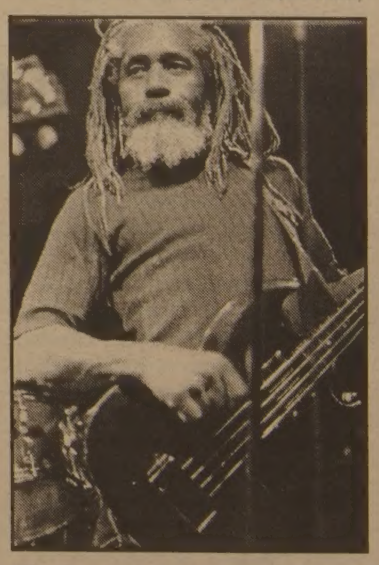
Heated (1998) Tracks: *Where I Stand, Better Get Used To It, The Scene, Cop A Plea, Girl Watcher, Round & Round, Kickin' Stones, Hammer In My Hand (G. Johnson), 100 Cigarettes, Turn The Lights On, Let It Ride, Heart Refuse To Pound*

Hemi-Vision (1996) Tracks: *Diggin' a Hole, Gone for Good, If I Had My Way, Skull Ring, Joe Louis / Judgement Day, Tommy Johnson, La Stralla, Tired All The Time, Empty Head, Open Up Baby, Rolling Pin, Tobacco Hand*

Dear M.F. (EP) (1995) Tracks: *Dear Mr. Fantasy, Goodbye Train, Motherless Children, A Night In Tunisia, Leadbelly*

Five Hundred Pounds (1993) Tracks: *Ride Like Hell, Standing Around Crying, I'm A Ram, Sugar In My Coffee, All Over Now, AAA Aardvark Hotel, How Many Times, Deliver Me, Still Waitin', Wild Ox Moan, Ride On*

Big Sugar (1992) *Tracks: Sleep in Late, Come Back Baby, Motherless Children, So Many Roads, Bemsha Swing, Stardust, Groundhog Day, Just About Sunrise, Goodbye Train, Nowhere to Go, 'Round Midnight, Devil Got My Woman*



Big Sugar bassist Garry Lowe (left) and keyboard/harmonica/saxophone player Kelly Hoppe.

Photos by Sharilyn Johnson

Entertainment

Sweet deal for Cheap Date audience

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

It was a welcome surprise.

After months of speculation and rumours, Big Sugar played at After Hours pub at Niagara College's Welland campus Feb. 23.

The show was part of Molson Canadian's Blind Date series, and the identity of the band was a secret until they hit the stage.

Preparations started early in the day. Pub staff and a crew of volunteers started moving the pool tables out around 12:30 p.m.

By 2 p.m., every piece of furniture had been stacked in the Comfort Zone, the floors had been mopped, the bar fridges were loaded, and setup of the stage had begun.

Two banks of speakers on either side of the stage reached almost to the ceiling. The wall behind the stage was draped in black sheets. A deck was constructed on top of one of the booths and a couch was lifted up for contest winners to sit on.

Big Sugar's road crew arrived promptly at 3:30 p.m. and wheeled in instruments and sound equipment. Volunteers helped unload the Ryder truck and setup the stage.

Later, the band arrived for sound check, which lasted until 7:30 p.m..

People with passes for the event had started lining up by that point.

Doors were supposed to be open from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. only, but Big Sugar's crew was still putting finishing touches on the stage setup. Doors finally opened at 8:20 p.m., and the 300 pass holders came in from the cold.

Everything on stage — including the microphones — were covered with black sheets to protect the identity of the band up to the last minute. That didn't stop the attendees from trying to look for clues and continuing to guess.

As the evening went on, the level of excitement rose. One group of people even started chanting "roadie! roadie!" when members of the crew made adjustments on the stage.

Just before 10 p.m., Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, took to the stage and made a draw for the spot on the couch on the deck.

He then introduced Troy Western, a Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student and employee at After Hours. Western played acoustic guitar and lead the singing of *O Canada*, a pre-performance tradition at After Hours.

The crowd had a "great level of enthusiasm," says Rapelje, "right from *O Canada* onward."

When Big Sugar took to the stage just moments later the crowd went wild and pushed together as close as they could.

Judging from the audience reaction, Molson couldn't have picked a better band than Big Sugar to bring to Niagara College.

They treated the crowd to all their hits, including *Better Get Used To It*, *The Scene*, *Diggin' a Hole*, and *If I Had My Way*.

Rapelje says it was "exactly the kind of show the guys needed to get ready for the show at Air Canada Centre" two days later.

The cheers never subsided, even when the band neared the end of their almost two-hour set.

"We're gonna try to make this a regular stop from now on," said Big Sugar frontman Gordie Johnson. "You guys are OK."

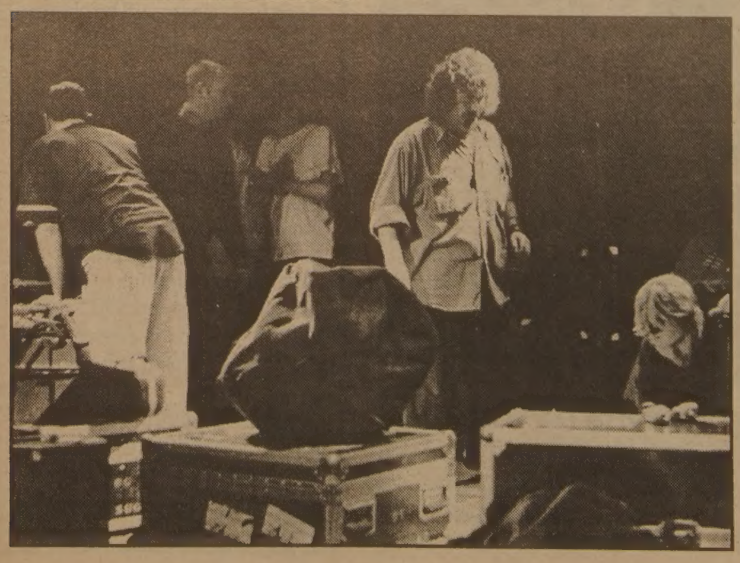
Rapelje says he has received nothing but positive comments about the show, and the Student Council is happy with the turnout.

"We are completely happy with the event."

Troy Western leads the audience in singing *O Canada* before the show.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Unloading the truck and setting it all up. After Hours staff, volunteers, and Big Sugar's crew get the pub ready.
Photos by Sharilyn Johnson



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Sports

Final shot sends Knights soaring to victory

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It came down to one shot and the ball was in the captain's hands.

The Niagara College Knights men's basketball team trailed Windsor's St. Clair College Saints by three points with less than five seconds to go on Feb. 19.

With the clock winding down, Haldon Hutchinson put up the three-point jump shot and sank it with 1.4 seconds left. The Knights went on to win the game 92-85 in overtime, but the shot of the night belonged to Hutchison.

"I couldn't believe I hit it," said Hutchinson, 20, a first-year student in the Business Administration program. "Emotions went crazy after I hit the shot."

"Haldon played outstanding," said Knights' assistant coach Ric Ethier. "We saw the shot go in — we knew it was in. They gave him too much time. He never misses when he's got time to get the ball off."

Hutchinson's teammate Aaron Paisley said he was experiencing the same emotions when he saw the shot let go.

"It was just one of those things that you live by or you die by," said Paisley, 20, a first-year Business Administration program student. "I'm glad he took it. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Knights Dave Klassen (12) and Ernell Ellis (right) fight for position as Curtis Francis (25) puts up a shot. The Knights defeated St.Clair 92-85 in overtime.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

It was Paisley who put the Knights ahead for good in the overtime period when he converted an offensive rebound into a two-point jumper, was fouled and hit the free-throw attempt.

"I felt we were playing well," said Paisley. "We were on a good roll. They were in a lot of foul trouble. That helped a lot and we just played harder than they did."

"He's (Paisley) a great player and he came to play at the end," Hutchinson said.

"They're one of the best teams in the country," said Knights' head coach Jeff MacDonald.

"This is a huge win for us. (The team) is playing better and better. That was a great win for the staff and the players. That was the best team win that we've had."

"I thought they never gave up," said Ethier. "When we were down three at the half, (St. Clair) came out with a 10-2 run, most teams would have folded. As a matter of fact, I think we might have folded back in October or November. They fought back very hard."

"Earlier in the game, we were throwing the ball away," said Paisley. "When it came down to crunch time, we got our heads together and we started to do what we needed to do to win."

Top scorers for the Knights were Hutchinson (24 points), Paisley (16), Ernell Ellis (13), Randy Clark (13), Steve Boyle (13), Paul Stewart (10), Curtis Francis (two) and Dave Klassen (one).

The Knights' regular season will end tonight when they host London's Fanshawe College at 8:30 p.m.

Team keeps playoff hopes alive with win

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a 42-19 victory over Barrie's Georgian College on Feb. 19.

The Knights struggled to get an advantage over winless Georgian, finally pulling away midway through the second half.

"This team we played is the last place team in the league," said Knights' head coach Georgie Groat, 29, of St. Catharines.

"It was their final game and they hadn't beaten anybody. It's really tough for them (Niagara) without the experience to get up for a last place team and that's something that really hurt us.

"They thought they were going to come out here and the other team would just let them win."

Candace Oxford, Niagara's leading scorer, said she thought the reason for the slow start was the lack of competitiveness from Georgian.

"We could've played better than how we did," said Oxford, 20, a first-year student in the Business Administration program. "Since their level of play wasn't as high as Mohawk or somebody, we didn't play as well as we could."

Teammate LeighAnn Breault agreed.

"It was frustrating because we know we can play better," said Breault, 19, a first-year student in the Office Administration Executive program. "We play better when we have a team we know we have to work hard to beat."

Candace Oxford (5) lets a shot go in the Knights' 42-19 win over Georgian. Oxford was the Knights' leading scorer in the game.

Photo by Lee Whitehead

However, all things considered, Breault said the win was important.

"A win is a win and that's what we needed right now."

Top scorers for the Knights were Oxford (10 points), Breault (nine), Andrea Flindall (seven), Kristin Flindall (seven), Kristina Griffin (four), Heidi VanDerWier (three) and Melissa Hallborg (two).

The Knights end their regular season tonight, needing a win against London's Fanshawe College to keep their playoff hopes alive. Game time is 6:30 p.m.

F-O-R-E

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Get your golf clubs ready and begin practicing for the Student Administrative Council (SAC) golf tournament.

SAC is hosting a golf tournament. The suggested date is April 9. Students will be charged $2 to offset the costs of the prizes.

The first 72 students who come to the SAC office with their money will be registered.

Jennifer McGregor, SAC president at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, motioned to cover the green fees for the students participating in the golf tournament. Seven SAC representatives voted in favour of the tournament and one voted against.

SAC is planning to spend up to $500 on prizes for the tournament, but have not decided yet where to hold the tournament.

Sports

Region comes together in spirit of fun

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Niagara welcomes the world.

It's no secret that in less than six months, the Niagara Region will play host to some of the best rowers in the world, as well as countless spectators and media.

On Feb. 17, a group of excited individuals received a special "ticket to ride" to Taylor and Bate Brewery in St. Catharines, the secret location of the press conference hosted by the Niagara Welcomes the World Campaign.

Sherry Baker, co-ordinator of the campaign, says this unique method of hosting a press conference was chosen to add fun and excitement to the event while at the same time showing that the campaign is a region-wide initiative.

"We're trying to build a reputation of doing things differently because if people enjoy themselves, they are going to be anxious to participate. We have also found that people do get excited about different things and that's why we also chose to add a little bit of secrecy on where we were going and to meet on the bus."

The Niagara Welcomes the World Campaign was established not only to showcase the region but also to pull key partners together to ensure that Niagara can be the best host possible to its many visitors expected during August.

"There will be a lot of people coming in for the day from Toronto, London and so forth, so we need to capitalize on the fact that people are here and get those people around the region," Baker says.

NIAGARA
Welcomes The World

The campaign's objectives include creative initiatives to showcase the region.

"Over the last six months, we've been working really hard with the municipalities to explain what the campaign is, and to also explain its benefits to the municipalities so they support us in spirit and financially as well. But I'm happy to say that all 12 have come on board, as well as the region."

"Now, our next challenge, and our next step, is to get a representative from each municipality. We've set up a committee. They are going to be working with us to make sure that their municipality is profiled and people get out to that municipality for events and initiatives while the people are here. (They'll) also make sure that the people in their municipality know that the rowing championships are coming."

The campaign is supported by various businesses and corporate sponsors that have given their support such as Rodman Hall Arts Centre, Steve Bauer Bike Tours, and a list of others.

Baker's associates in the campaign include Judy Ziraldo, her partner in Events Extraordinaire, a special events planning company, and Meagen Davies, an intern from Niagara College's Public Relations post-graduate program.

Sailing away with new course

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Ship off with Niagara College's sailing school.

"It's a great course with excellent instructors," says Darcy Ewanchuck, the sailing school's head instructor.

Keelboat cruising, the main training focus, is a 30-hour course. Its students receive practical and hands-on instruction in basic sailing manoeuvres, skills and safety.

Upon successful completion, students will receive the Canadian Yachting Association's (CYA) basic cruising certification.

This course costs $398 plus the cost of a textbook. It's taught on Lake Ontario at the Port Dalhousie Pier Marina in St. Catharines. The school's office is in the lighthouse on the east pier of the Port Dalhousie harbour.

This course will include the SPARK Start Accredited Canadian Coast Guard Boating Safety Course Standard. Upon successful completion, students will receive a pleasure craft operator card.

Legislation has been passed recently requiring all boaters to obtain this card.

"They're phasing it in over a few years," says Ewanchuck, adding boaters 16 years of age and over won't be required to have the card until 2009.

She says it's best boaters obtain the card as soon as possible, and "eventually they'll (boaters) be expected to carry it with them while boating."

Ewanchuck says the new legislation, passed last September, requires all boaters under the age of 16 to have their cards by Sept. 15 of this year.

Niagara College offers a variety of courses teaching the SPARK Start course exclusively. They include the operator's challenge exam for experienced boaters, the refresher course for boaters with previous boating knowledge, the young boaters course for people under 16 and the full course for beginners.

"It was pretty busy last year," says Ewanchuck, adding, with the addition of the SPARK Start courses, "it can only get better."

She says one reason for the course's popularity is that instructors will try to adjust class times for people with scheduling conflicts.

"We will customize the schedule to suit people."

The sailing school offers a six-hour seminar for beginners at a cost of $99 and a junior sailing school for people aged 10 to 15 at $199.

All courses run from May to October and are taught by one of six instructors, all certified by the CYA.

The boats used are SHARK 24 keelboats, all equipped with safety gear and VHF radios.

"I have a good feeling about the sailing school," says Ewanchuck.

The school is an associate member of the CYA, the Ontario Sailing Association and the American Sailing Association.

The school offers a sailing club called Club Commodore. Its members must complete the keelboat cruising course and are allowed to take the boats out without an instructor's supervision. A seasonal membership costs $599 from May to September. A spousal membership costs $99.

Anyone interested in the sailing school can call 735-2211 ext. 7510 for more information or attend the school's annual open house being held June 13 at the Port Dalhousie Pier Marina.

Driver fitness important

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Soccer, or European football, is the most watched spectator sport on television. Can you guess what's No. 2? No, it's not hockey, football or basketball.

It's Formula One (F1) racing. Next to soccer, F1 is the most popular sport in the world — and, yes, auto racing is a sport.

I can't help but laugh when I hear people say auto racing shouldn't be classified as a sport. Some people believe the car does all the work, and anyone could sit in the driver's seat and drive in a race.

This statement couldn't be further from the truth.

F1 drivers are athletes and possibly the best-conditioned athletes in the world.

The average driver stands five feet, eight inches tall and weighs in at about 170 pounds. They're not as big as football players, hockey players or even soccer players.

However, the rigours they must put their bodies through could only be done by well-trained and -conditioned athletes.

Driving at speeds averaging 200 kilometres an hour and as fast as 325 kilometres an hour puts tremendous pressure on a driver's neck and head.

Many people wouldn't be able to move because of the g-forces, but these drivers can easily turn their necks to look in their mirrors and check upcoming corners because their neck muscles are so strong.

Studies have shown driving one lap of an F1 race circuit — usually a distance of four kilometres covered in 1 1/2 minutes — can make a driver's heart rate reach 180 beats a minute.

Do you still think you could be a race-car driver?

Most people would be gasping for air at this point, yet F1 drivers continue to drive for another 60 to 70 laps.

To cope with these strenuous conditions, drivers must go through a disciplined training regime.

The late Ayrton Senna regularly ran 40 to 50 laps of a 400-metre track to stay fit. Senna was consistent in his running with about 30 laps run in the same amount of time. Consistency is the result of mental and physical preparation.

Of today's drivers, Michael Schumacher is probably the best trained. When other drivers are exhausted and soaked with sweat after a hard-fought race, Schumacher appears calm and collected and, more often than not, doesn't even look like he broke a sweat.

Auto racing isn't as easy as many people think. Drivers are paid millions of dollars to win so being a well-conditioned athlete is important. They must be able to handle the mental strains as well as the physical ones. This is something other athletes may not be able to do.

De La Hoya shows why he's champion

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

World welterweight boxing champion Oscar De La Hoya showed the guts of a true warrior by stopping Ike Quartey in a bruising battle.

Quartey himself was a former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion who was stripped of his title recently. De La Hoya is the current World Boxing Council (WBC) champion and has an impressive 30 victories, no losses record, although Quartey came close to blemishing it.

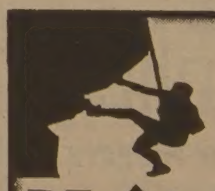
The fight took place at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nev., last Feb. 13. He was knocked down by the tough Ghanian, Ike Quartey, in the sixth round. De La Hoya hung on and fought back bravely. It was a tremendous round of boxing.

However, the contest was heating up into a gem of a fight almost from the first round with both men showing skilful boxing techniques and awesome punching power.

It was from the middle and latter rounds, however, both men showed what they were made of by exchanging some big "bombs" against each other. De La Hoya's left eye was almost shut as a result of the stinging jabs and thumping right crosses that Quartey hit him with during the fight. However, De La Hoya continued to show great courage against an opponent who was prepared to go toe-to-toe with him.

De La Hoya pressed on realizing he was in danger of losing his WBC title to the tough African. In the ninth round, he cornered Quartey and unleashed a fearsome barrage of 17 unanswered punches. De La Hoya was in command.

The fight went the full distance of 12 rounds, and in the end, "Golden Boy" De La Hoya retained his WBC welterweight title by a split decision. It was hailed by many boxing writers and fans as one of the best fights they had seen in years.



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Eye On Niagara

College trying to corner market

Enrolment highest in Information Technology

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College wants to corner a piece of the market.

"We're very strongly linked to regional economic development," said college President Dan Patterson.

Bonnie Rose, the college's vice-president academic, led a discussion on the college's market niches. A niche is a profitable piece of the market.

The discussion, during the board meeting held Feb. 18, centered on pushing Niagara ahead through growth, partnerships and taking advantage of market demands.

During the discussion Rose outlined the makeup of the college's program areas by campus and the percentage of total enrolment these areas fill as of January.

Welland campus:

- Communications and Information Technology Division, 23 per cent
- Administrative and Justice Studies Division, 12 per cent
- Health and Community Studies Division, 18 per cent
- Foundation Studies Division, eight per cent

Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake:

- Business and Entrepreneurship Division, 17 per cent
- Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division, seven per cent
- Integrated Manufacturing and Skill Training Division, six per cent

Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls:

- Hospitality and Tourism, nine per cent

The large percentage of enrolment in information technology came as a surprise to the board.

Most people in the Niagara Region don't think of the college as a school actively involved in this area, said Rose.

She said the college needs to ask itself what it wants to be known for. Administration must keep in mind they have to be realistic about growth, so they must decide what to keep and what to substitute to achieve this growth, said Rose.

> ***'Is this the appropriate program? Is this the appropriate use of space?' —Dan Patterson***

Hans van der Slagt, vice-president administration, added Niagara must continue to grow above the provincial average or it will have an impact on funding.

Rose said Niagara places limits on its program admissions to meet industry demands and to get a higher quality of student. This keeps the college current with industry demands so the market is not flooded.

The board agreed it needs to look at individual areas, decide if they are up to date and see what areas need to give and what areas need to be added.

Patterson said they need to ask, "Is this the appropriate program? Is this the appropriate use of space?"

An outline of major academic market areas included in the board report pinpointed policing, information technology, horticultural, hospitality and tourism and manufacturing programs and partnerships as areas which should be major college priorities for 1999.

Legal problems answered at local clinic

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Legal advice is only a phone call away.

If you have a problem with a landlord, an employer or a government agency, you may be wondering where you can go for legal advice that won't cost you a small fortune.

Community Legal Services of Niagara South Inc. will help those who can't afford a private lawyer or those who just need advice and direction.

"We are not here to compete against regular lawyers. What we're here to do is sort of fill the gap," said Jack Gillespie, executive director of the clinic.

Gillespie manages the two offices, the main one in Welland at 80 King St. and a satellite one at 266 Ridge Rd., Ridgeway.

Gillespie is the only lawyer at the Welland location, but there is another who runs the office in Ridgeway.

They are a government-funded legal clinic set up to provide free legal assistance, representation or advice for people who wouldn't qualify for legal aid because of financial reasons.

"We are a part of the wider public sector, so the money ultimately comes from the Attorney General's Office, so it's funded by taxes," said Gillespie.

The irony of this is that the government is usually the one on the other side of the cases, he said.

The clinic is mandated to provide services in a variety of legal areas, such as the following:

- family law advice
- Employment Insurance matters
- tenant protection
- Worker's Compensation
- welfare/family benefits
- debtor creditor problems
- Canada Pension
- compensation for victims of crime
- human rights
- employment law
- immigration and refugee matters

- community development/organizing
- law reform.

He said family law is restricted to providing advice and helping with basic paperwork, but not representing people in Family Court.

Gillespie said clients are mostly the underprivileged, adding this kind of law use to be called poverty law, but since new legislation has been introduced it is now called clinic law.

"So we give advice in a number of areas — not in every area — because we don't do anything in insurance," he said, adding private practice lawyers are good with insurance.

He said they also don't handle wills or estates as they're money issues, nor do they take real estate transactions or criminal law.

"There is a very dedicated criminal bar out there. Legal aid is available for them, so we're not going to compete with them."

Besides giving advice and helping in the areas listed, he said they educate the public through a program called Public Legal Education and Information.

"We find that if we can educate people it saves everybody a lot of hassle."

Gillespie explained there are no fees involved with the clinic. You don't have to qualify financially to get advice from them.

He gave the example of helping to fill out forms. "If I can do it in under two hours, it's free."

However, he said if he has to do something more complicated, such as representing someone before a tribunal or a court, or opening a file, then a person will have to qualify.

"We look at your financial circumstance, the size of the family, the nature of the problem and basically the numbers are passed down from Toronto as to whether you get help or not.

"Then I make the call based on the information that I have and based on what our policies are."

He said if they have a case, and if they qualify, then, eventually, they open a file.

> ***'We don't want to take food out of anybody's mouth or make the rent go late.' —Jack Gillespie***

"The only time people have to give us money is if we spend money."

He used the case of someone being injured at work, in a situation in which Worker's Compensation doesn't believe the person was hurt on the job.

He said he obtains the proper medical documents, for which the doctor charges him $200. When the board reverses its decision, and the person gets money, he then asks for repayment of the funds he spent.

"I would say that a large percentage of people pay us back."

However, he said, "practically speaking, if somebody is broke when they come in here and unable to get the money, we ask for the money but we know we're not going to get it.

"We don't want to take food out of anybody's mouth or make the rent go late. We're accommodating that way."

Gillespie said they want to make students aware of the clinic's existence, as most come from out of town and aren't aware of the community services available.

"If a student has a problem, they can phone us and we'll try and deal with it that way," he said, adding if it's an issue not on their list it's still wise to call anyway.

He said nine out of 10 times, if they can't handle it, they'll be able to indicate someone who can.

There are 70 clinics across Ontario. Each clinic is independently run by an elected board of directors.

The Welland clinic covers Welland, Wainfleet, Pelham, Port Colborne and Fort Erie.

Gillespie said if someone from outside these areas comes to them for help the person won't turn them away. If it's a complicated item, they'll give advice, but the matter will be redirected to a clinic where the person lives.

"It really depends on what the situation is."

The phone numbers for the clinics are Welland, 735-1559; Ridgeway, 894-4775 or 383-2536.

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Eye On Niagara

Practical experience brought to classroom

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

A professor brings his years of practical experience and love for nature into the classroom to co-ordinate environmental programs.

Alan Unwin, 31, of St. Catharines, said it was his "love for nature" that interested him in the Ecosystem Restoration program he teaches.

Unwin is co-ordinator for the Ecosystem Restoration, and Environment Health and Safety co-ordinator, post-graduate programs at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He said that campus is "more beneficial" than the former Wellandvale campus because of the environment in and around it.

"It's exciting that our students can just walk right outside the door and be exposed to that type of project."

The students in the restoration program will be working on student-based projects, such as restoring the seven-acre sewage lagoons on the property.

Unwin said he plans to restore "some of the most diverse habitat in area" into a "more functioning aquatic ecosystem."

The college has contacted the Wetland Habitat Fund for help, up to $5,000, in financing the students' restoration plans.

Unwin said his students are preparing the funding application.

He's been teaching at Niagara full time since July 1996. A lifelong St. Catharines resident, he said he never expected to end up working here. In addition, he also does consulting work.

He said he thinks "it's nice" to bring a practical aspect to the students.

"It makes teaching much more relevant to the students," he said, "if you can keep your own foot in the door."

AL UNWIN

As a professor, he says it's important to stay connected to the profession in which you're involved.

"It's not that I'm smarter than the students or that I have more intelligence, it's just that I have had 10 more years of experience."

Unwin said of the 15 hours a week he teaches, the most rewarding part of his job is having a student comes to him out of class to say "thanks."

What impresses him most about education, he said, is the college's "practical slant."

He said he hears from students in his class who have a three or four-year university degree and are "frustrated" they don't have any practical-based skills to get them into the workforce.

Limitations are the weakest aspect of education, he said, placed on the programs by "external agencies that don't understand what's going on."

The provincial government is perceived as being anti-environment and he said that perception is slowly "trickling down" to parents and students.

The perception is that the environment is not a concern and there are no jobs in it, which, in reality, he said, is not true.

"Reality is that there are still so many issues that we have to deal with. There are so many things that we are going to have to face in the future."

Unwin said it's "discouraging when you're teaching environmental education and you've got a couple of other agencies being completely contradictory to what you're teaching."

He said he hopes the future plans of the Glendale campus will include a student residence to reduce the air pollution of the cars driving to the campus every day.

Unwin said an on-going plan at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus is preparing a hiking path to the Bruce Trail for anyone interested in nature or wildlife.

Students receive encouragement from professional

Dig up things you want to do or deal with things you don't

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Aspiring reporters got some encouragement from a professional reporter.

Kevin Harding, of Welland, spoke to a group of second-year Journalism-Print program students on Feb. 19 about his life as a reporter.

Harding graduated from the program in April with an average of 95.9 per cent earning him the Governor General's Academic Medal. Last January he got a job at the *Welland Tribune* working full time while someone was on maternity leave.

When the woman came back, Harding was out of a job, but says he spent the summer freelancing for the *Welland Tribune* and the *Niagara Falls Review*. He says, "The phone rang off the hook."

KEVIN HARDING

He works full time for the Fort Erie bureau of the *Niagara Falls Review*. He says Niagara College's program "prepares you very well for a weekly" newspaper.

He says when working at a local newspaper you're going to be covering "council, cops and court," adding unless you want to deal with "unpleasant politicians and criminals, dig up things you want to do."

"Stupidity is always good for news," says Harding, adding "to be a reporter you have to show sensitivity, but not be too sensitive."

"Overall, it's a great job," he says. "You'll be extremely privileged in the places you get to go and the people you get to meet."

Harding covered U.S. President Bill Clinton's recent trip to Buffalo, N.Y.

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Eye On Niagara

Spring calendar will be available soon

Modifications to Continuing Education's spring term classes promise excitement

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College Continuing Education's new spring calendar is expected to be out the weekend of March 27.

There are many courses to pique interest this term, both new additions and old favourites.

On Dec. 1, 1998, the provincial government passed Bill C-68. As a result of this bill, the hunter safety and firearms course applies to non-restrictive firearms such as rifles and shotguns but not handguns.

The course offered by Niagara is the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' course and is necessary for all first-time hunters.

"You would not believe the number of people interested in this course," says Shirley Tomovic, a development officer for Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

The course includes training in firearm familiarity and safety, wildlife identification and management, bowhunting, ethics legislation, field techniques and survival as well as the Canadian Firearms Safety course.

For activities offshore, Continuing Education's sailing school has been offered since 1991 and returns this year with an addition.

The Coast Guard Approved Canadian Yachting Association Spark Start Boating Safety program will be included in the sailing courses.

All people operating boats will need this certification. Those who are 16 years old, or younger, must have it by September of this year, says Tomovic.

"All of them (the courses' instructors) have been with us for at least six years," says Tomovic.

Those people who want to ship off but don't want to be at the helm can embark on Continuing Education's Niagara River and Lake Ontario Tall Ship Cruises.

Two cruises are scheduled. Both will take place June 5, one in the day, the other in the evening.

"Last year, it went really great," says Tomovic, adding a third cruise was added to accommodate demand.

Retired Brock University history professor Wes Turner will give an educational commentary about the history of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario during the daytime cruise.

The night-time cruise will feature dinner and dancing.

Cruises take place on the Empire Sandy, Canada's largest sailing ship.

Other outdoors courses to look out for include map and compass skills, home landscaping and gardening, scuba diving, golf lessons and much more.

Continuing Education's motorcycle training program will be offered again this year.

"There are courses available for new and experienced riders," says Sue Tallon, a development officer for Continuing Education and Distance Learning.

These courses have been offered since 1983. This year, they'll begin the weekend of April 23, and 13 sections will run from then until the middle of September, says Tallon.

There are many courses to pique interest this term, both new additions and old favourites.

Taralea McLean, a development officer for Continuing Education and Distance Learning, is responsible for many courses this spring.

There will be a seminar held June 9 to teach people how to walk on fire.

A course to teach people how to make balloon animals will be offered. This will supplement Continuing Education's how to be a clown course offered in the fall and winter terms, but it doesn't have a prerequisite.

There will be a new class on bereavement, which will be accepted as a general elective.

"Bereavement is not necessarily death. It's a loss. It could be a job, a divorce, a loved one or a social network," says McLean, adding this course will help its students deal with these problems.

She's responsible for other classes, including seminars on psychopaths, pedophiles and stalkers, on addictive personalities and on sexual offenders and their victims.

"At Continuing Education, we aim to please," says Tomovic.

English professor's book aims to teach people to write well

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

Who better to write a book on writing properly than an English professor?

Doug Rogers, 49, of Welland, has been an English professor at Niagara College for about 24 years. He's recently written a Canadian composition textbook called *Write of Way*.

Rogers says his aim has been "to help college students write as well as employers expect college graduates to write."

He says he's been "interested in helping people read and write for more than 30 years."

Rogers says the textbook "is the book I wished I had when I began to teach writing."

He says he had asked other colleagues to write a book but "had to write the book myself."

"I think you write best about what you're most interested in, and I'm really interested about how people learn to read and write. It seemed a natural thing to write about."

Before working at the college, Rogers had worked for the Hamilton Board of Education in the Psychological Services Department.

He says the children he worked with had two main problems —behaviour and learning how to read and write.

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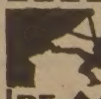
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Eye on Niagara

Author 'tested' his ideas on students

Continued from Page 22

Rogers says the position piqued his interest in learning how to teach people how to learn to read and write.

Rogers says his text is "very student-centered."

A student who doesn't have a teacher "could still learn from the book."

That's possible, he explains, because following every section or chapter are exercises for student to do to see if they understand.

Shortly after completing his doctorate in reading education from the State University of New York at Buffalo, N.Y., in 1993, Rogers says, he started thinking about writing the textbook.

In early 1996 he signed a contract with Canadian publisher Prentice Hall, and "the last three years have been very intense."

"I think I thought I was writing before that, but it was pretty slowly compared to after signing a contract."

Rogers says Prentice Hall has already shown interest in having him author another book.

He says he's pleased with his effort.

"It's going to be great fun to use the text with my students. I can't wait."

Rogers says students have always been involved in the book's progression.

Write of Way includes 478 pages costs about $35

He says he "tested" his ideas on students to see their response. "I've used the book with my students from the very beginning, since the first thing I wrote. I wrote it to try to help them learn better."

The text covers material in speech writing, résumés, keeping minutes in a meeting, making a news release, writing letters to the editor and taking written tests and essays.

The book includes essays written by former Niagara College students.

Key features of the textbook are comprehensive grammar coverage, a research and documentation section, its student-friendly conversational tone, readings reflecting Canada's cultural and geographical diversity and concise coverage of the writing process.

Information not in the textbook can be found on the Prentice Hall website at www.prenticehall.ca/rogers. The website can provide professors with additional activities and assignments.

An instructor's manual is also available as part of a supplemental package.

Rogers says this is the time of year when instructors decide which textbook to use the next academic year.

He says some colleagues have already shown interest in using it.

Rogers says *Write of Way* will be available in college and university bookstores in September. He says the 478-page textbook will cost about $35.

It's really 4696

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

The year 1999 is the year of the Rabbit. By the Chinese calendar it is really 4696.

The Lunar New Year was Feb. 16, almost three weeks later this year than last. Oriental cultures mark this as a new beginning.

Before New Year's day everyone cleaned their houses to get rid of any bad luck that may be there from the previous year.

Doors and windows are decorated in different themes representing happiness, wealth and longevity.

On the eve of the Lunar New Year everyone wears red to keep evil spirits away. Anyone who wears black and white on this day is thought to be in mourning.

The eve of the New Year was the most exciting time of the year.

Hyoiu Lee, 24, of the Early Childhood Education program at Niagara College, said on New Year's day special foods are eaten.

"Family members go to grandparents' house for a big dinner," said Eileen Jen, 23, of Taiwan, a first-year Office Administration student. On New Year's day an ancient custom called Hong Bao, which means red packet, took place.

Married couples would give money in red envelopes to children and other unmarried adults.

Jen said her "grandparents and parents would give us envelopes with money in."

Afterwards, they go door to door to say greetings, first to relatives then to neighbours.

At the end of New Year's day a Festival of Lanterns celebration. The underlying message of this celebration was peace and happiness for family members and friends.

There are 12 animals that rule the Chinese zodiac.

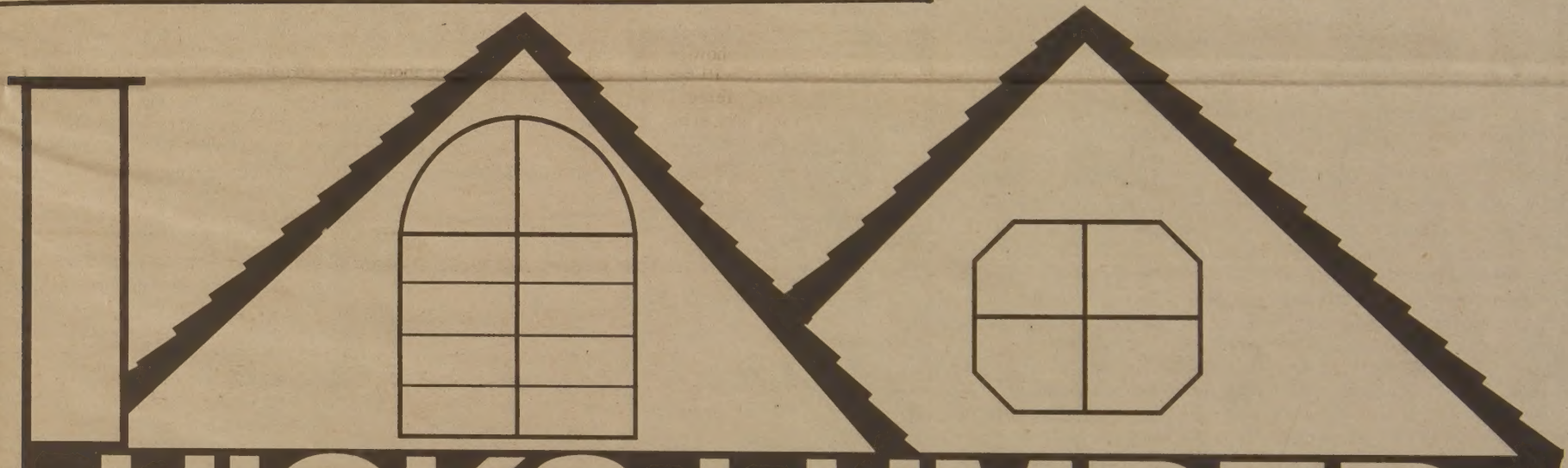
In order, they are the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

One legend of how the 12 originated was that Buddha invited all of the earth's animals to a gathering before his departure. Only 12 came. As a token of his appreciation he named a year after each in the order they arrived.

The Chinese believe there's an animal which rules the year in which you're born. That animal hides in your heart.

Annually the animals rotate, so 11 years from now it will be the year of the rabbit again. Characteristics the rabbit possesses are wisdom, intelligence and understanding.

The next Lunar New Year will be Feb. 5, 2000, the year of the dragon.



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Eye On Niagara

Transition positive step for busy student

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

GLENDALE — The transition from full-time to part-time student in the Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) program gives you a little more time but is no less intense, says Mike Lasher.

Lasher, 35, of Fort Erie, enrolled in MCSE last September at Niagara College. He says attending part time has given him some breathing room, not only for home commitments but also for studying.

"My personal experience is it really suited my timeframe. I'm a single father and I have to manage the house and the bills and make sure my 13-year-old daughter is cared for."

Lasher is from the Mississauga New Credit Reservation in Hagersville. His first experience with computers was in 1994 when he took a software application program at the Native Friendship Centre in Fort Erie.

He says he obtained a few computers and started working on them at home. Tearing them apart and rebuilding them for friends became a sideline. "I just kept going."

He says, "This is the information age and you can go all the way as long as you stay in computers. That's why I stayed. I like the machines."

Employed at Fleet Industries until downsized in 1991, he says hammering the same rivet, cutting the same piece of steel and dealing with assembly line doldrums were beginning to take their toll on him.

"I thought to myself, is this what I want to do for the rest of my life?"

Although Lasher wasn't happy with assembly work, the layoff brought on a bout with depression.

MIKE LASHER

"Everything I'd acquired since high school, I'd worked for. Not working was very depressing."

Along with the layoff, Lasher spent some time on disability, which further hampered his abilities.

"I knew I couldn't do anything as physical as a general labourer. I had to go in another direction where I was able to physically handle an eight-hour day or a 40 hour week."

Comparing the physical to mental exhaustion, Lasher says "it's quite fatiguing." He says he can't think anymore when he gets home but still has to study.

Information Technology (IT) involves everything from fast food chains to Fortune 500 companies. He says they all have some kind of communication network within their corporation.

"I can choose any industry I want."

He says this is the last hurdle for him, to get through the program and be certified. The program has occupied his time non-stop for the last six months and he's "ready to pull his hair out," but adds the course is short in comparison to others that offer as much opportunity as this one.

"I've had people tell me, you get your certification and come and talk to us."

He says pay scales for jobs in his field start at about $40,000 U.S. a year and the opportunities are global.

Lasher admits he should have paid more attention in school the first time.

"If I knew then what I know now," he laments. "I look at the end of the tunnel and see what I have to look forward to."

Student assistance, bursuries based on need

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Attention starving students! Help is on the way.

If you are a good student, you could receive money for nothing in the form of a bursary.

To start the application process, "what we need from the student is a budget of their income and expenses for the academic year," says Kathy Borisenko, one of two Niagara College Welland campus advisers.

"We also need a letter of rationale as to why they feel they qualify for that particular bursary."

Dianne Oster is the financial aid adviser for the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Maid-of-the-Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

Borisenko says some of the criteria for receiving a particular bursary can be "very specific."

For example, a student might have to be enrolled in a particular program such as Business Administration, or a student might have to live in St. Catharines or Niagara Falls. Others are as simple as only requiring the student be enrolled full time.

She says the awarding of a bursary is largely dependent on the student's financial situation.

"There is definitely an element of financial need. We have to ensure that the student really does have a need. As long as we can identify a need we just request the cheque and it is mailed to the student's home."

KATHY BORISENKO

In addition to the regular bursaries, there are student assistance bursaries based strictly on financial need, says Borisenko. These bursaries take two to three weeks to process.

"The advisers have the authority to go up to an amount they think is necessary. It's a judgment call. I won't do one for $100 because there is too much paper work involved."

She says the only time she would authorize such a low amount is if it were for an emergency.

"Some students need $100 for emergency medical work or for child care. It depends on the student's need."

While bursaries are largely based on financial need, scholarships and awards are based on academic skills.

Isabell McGarry is the administrative assistant to Chris Blake, the executive director of the Niagara College Foundation.

She says students should talk to their co-ordinator about scholarships and awards.

There is also a Governor General's Academic Medal given out at the end of the year to the student with the highest academic standing. It is a collegiate bronze medal. A student must be in the final year of a diploma-level post-secondary program.

Last year's recipient was Kevin Harding, a graduate in the Journalism-Print program.

Februarius named for goatskin thong

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Why the confusion over February?

To find the answer you must reach back 2,000 years to a time when the Roman Empire ruled Europe and much of the Middle East.

Plutarch, a Greek biographer who wrote between AD 105 and 115, claimed that in Rome's founding years the months varied in length making the calendar very confusing.

At this time the Romans believed the calendar year had 360 days, with some months having only 20 days and others having as many as 35 days.

The month of February (or Februarius) had 23 days with Feb. 23 traditionally being the end of the calendar year.

Februarius is named for a goatskin thong called a februa. A februa is defined as a means of purification. The Latin verb februare means to expiate or purify.

On Feb. 15 the Romans observed the festival of Lupercalia during which Roman priests used a februa to beat non-fertile women, thinking it would make them fertile.

When and how the Romans changed their calendar to match the year length is unclear, yet it was always done after Feb. 23 — formerly the last day of the year. To this day, purists still believe a leap year falls on Feb. 24 not Feb. 29.

After the fall of Caesar, his nephew and adopted son Octavian became emperor. Octavian is now referred to as Augustus, an honourary title given to him during his reign.

Octavian was born in Septembris, so Roman officials offered to rename the month in honour of him. In Octavian's time, as it is today, September had 30 days.

This presented a problem for Augustus since his month would have fewer days than the month named for his predecessor Julius, or July, with 31 days.

So Octavian searched for a month from which to remove days in an effort to make his month more important than Caesar's. Since Caesar had added a day to February a few years before, this made it easier for him to remove a day from February and add it to August.

As a result, February was, again, left with 28 days except on a leap year for which it had 29.

The research for this article was done on the World Wide Web at http://www.greenheart.com/billh/earlyrom.html.